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POINT-MATCHING SOLUTIONS FOR A CLASS OF BOUNDARY-VALUE  
PROBLEMS USING BIHARMONIC FUNCTIONS IN CARTESIAN COORDINATES

by

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A THESIS

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The undersigned certify that they have read, and recommend to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for acceptance, a thesis entitled "POINT-MATCHING SOLUTIONS FOR A CLASS OF BOUNDARY-VALUE PROBLEMS USING BIHARMONIC FUNCTIONS IN CARTESIAN COORDINATES", submitted by YIH-RENN KAN in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science.



## ABSTRACT

In this thesis, the general solution of the biharmonic equation in Cartesian coordinates is used to solve the following problems:

1. Uniformly loaded rectangular plates with all edges clamped.
2. Uniformly loaded rhombus plates with all edges clamped.
3. Uniformly and hydrostatically loaded circular segmental plates with all edges clamped.
4. Uniformly loaded circular plates with diametrically opposite flat sides and all edges clamped.
5. Creeping flow in rectangular cavities.
6. Creeping flow in triangular cavities.
7. Creeping flow in circular segmental cavities.

The general solution of the biharmonic equation is written in terms of infinite series of harmonic and biharmonic functions which are derived by using the complex-variable method. The coefficients of the infinite series are determined by point-matching technique.

The numerical results have been compared with the available solutions in the literature. It is seen that the numerical results of the present analysis are very satisfactory.

The purpose of this thesis is to show that a class of boundary-value problems can be approached by using biharmonic functions in Cartesian coordinates.



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## NOTATIONS

$A$	Aspect ratio of rectangular cavity ( $=H/a$ ).
$A_m, B_m, C_m, D_m$	Coefficients of the general solution of biharmonic equation in polar coordinates.
$a_{mn}$	Coefficient of the series solution of the biharmonic equation in doubly infinite series.
$a$	Length dimension in x-direction.
$b$	Length dimension in y-direction.
$b_i$	Coefficient of the biharmonic function $G_i$ .
$c_i$	Coefficient of the harmonic function $g_i$ .
$D$	$= Et^3/12(1-\mu^2)$ , Flexural rigidity of a plate.
$E$	Modulus of Elasticity.
$G_i$	Biharmonic function.
$g_i$	Harmonic function.
$H$	Depth of the rectangular cavity.
$k, \ell$	Real numbers.
$M_x, M_y, M_n$	Bending moments per unit length of sections of a plate perpendicular to X axis, Y axis and unit normal, respectively.
$n$	Outward normal of the boundary.
$q, q_0$	Load intensity.
$p_n, q_n, r_n, s_n$	Real constants.
$M, N, P$	Positive integers.
$R$	Reynolds number.
$s$	Length dimension in y-direction or along the boundary.



$V_0$	Velocity of the moving wall for creeping flow problem.
$v$	Velocity of the creeping flow problem.
$w$	Deflection of the plate.
$\psi$	Stream function of the creeping flow problem.
$\psi_n$	Complex constant.
$\phi_n$	Complex constant.
$\mu$	Poisson's ratio (= 0.3 for all the numerical results of the plate problem).



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Plate Equation and Its Solutions

The governing differential equation of a laterally loaded thin plate subjected to small deflections is

$$\nabla^4 w = \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^4} + 2 \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4 w}{\partial y^4} = \frac{q}{D} \quad (1)$$

In the case of a clamped edge the boundary conditions are

$$w = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{\partial w}{\partial n} = 0, \quad \text{where } n \text{ is outward normal.}$$

The general solution of differential equation (1) can be written as,

$$w = w_h + w_p,$$

where  $w_p$  is a particular integral of the differential equation (1) and  $w_h$  is the solution of the homogeneous biharmonic differential equation

$$\nabla^4 w_h = 0.$$

The general series solution of the homogeneous biharmonic equation in polar coordinates is [1],

$$\begin{aligned} w_h = & A_0 + B_0 r^2 + C_0 \log r + D_0 r^2 \log r \\ & + (A_1 r + B_1 r^3 + C_1 r^{-1} + D_1 r \log r) \cos \theta \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
& + (A_1' r + B_1' r^3 + C_1' r^{-1} + D_1' r \log r) \sin \theta \\
& + \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} (A_m r^m + B_m r^{-m} + C_m r^{m+2} + D_m r^{-m+2}) \cos m\theta \\
& + \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} (A_m' r^m + B_m' r^{-m} + C_m' r^{m+2} + D_m' r^{-m+2}) \sin m\theta \quad (2)
\end{aligned}$$

This series solution (2) has been successfully used by Conway [2], Cheng [3], Hulbert [4], Lo [5] and many others to solve the elasticity, plate and heat transfer problems where the coefficients  $A_m$ ,  $B_m$ ,  $C_m$ ,  $D_m$ ,  $A_m'$ ,  $B_m'$ ,  $C_m'$  and  $D_m'$  were determined by the point matching technique.

It appears that the general solution of the biharmonic equation in Cartesian coordinates was first given by Thorne [6]. Sparrow and Haji-Sheikh [7] set up the general solution of the biharmonic equation in terms of  $G_i$ <sup>1</sup> and  $g_i$ , where  $g_i$ 's and  $G_i$ 's are harmonic and biharmonic functions respectively. Sparrow and Haji-Sheikh have used these functions  $g_i$  and  $G_i$  to solve the flow and heat transfer in ducts with arbitrary thermal boundary conditions. In this thesis, the general solution of the biharmonic equation in Cartesian coordinates will be derived by complex variable method and polynomial method. It is noted that the functions  $G_i$ 's obtained are not completely identical with those given in Reference [7].

---

<sup>1</sup> Derivation of the biharmonic function  $G_i$  was not discussed in [7].





## 1.2 Purpose and Problems

The general solution of the biharmonic equation in Cartesian coordinates was first used successfully by Sparrow and Haji-Sheikh [7] in solving laminar forced convection heat transfer problem. The purpose of this thesis is to show that the general solution of biharmonic equation in Cartesian coordinates can be used to solve the plate and creeping flow problems governed by biharmonic equations. It is noted that these functions  $G_i$  and  $g_i$  have not been used in solving these problems in the past. Approximate solutions are found by employing point-matching technique to obtain the coefficients of the functions  $g_i$  and  $G_i$  for the following plate and creeping flow problems:

1. Uniformly loaded rectangular plates with all edges clamped.
2. Uniformly loaded rhombus plates with all edges clamped.
3. Uniformly and hydrostatically loaded circular segmental plates with all edges clamped.
4. Uniformly loaded circular plates with diametrically opposite flat sides and all edges clamped.
5. Creeping flow in rectangular cavities.
6. Creeping flow in triangular cavities.
7. Creeping flow in circular segmental cavities.

It is noted that some of the problems mentioned above cannot readily be handled by using the general solution of the biharmonic equation in polar coordinates. Those problems are clamped uniformly loaded rectangular plate with large aspect ratio and clamped uniformly loaded rhombus plate with small angle  $\alpha$ .



## CHAPTER II

### THEORETICAL ANALYSIS

#### 2.1 Derivation of the Biharmonic Function $G_i^1$ and Harmonic Function $g_i^1$ by Complex Variable Method

The differential equation (1) in complex coordinate system  $(z, \bar{z})$  can be written as;

$$\frac{\partial^4 \tilde{w}(z, \bar{z})}{\partial z^2 \partial \bar{z}^2} = \frac{1}{16D} \tilde{q}(z, \bar{z}) \quad (3)$$

where  $z = x + iy$ ,  $\bar{z} = x - iy$ ,  $i = \sqrt{-1}$

$$\tilde{w}(z, \bar{z}) = w\left(\frac{z + \bar{z}}{2}, \frac{z - \bar{z}}{2i}\right) = w(x, y) \quad \text{and}$$

$$\tilde{q}(z, \bar{z}) = q\left(\frac{z + \bar{z}}{2}, \frac{z - \bar{z}}{2i}\right) = q(x, y) .$$

It is noted that  $\tilde{w}(z, \bar{z})$  and  $\tilde{q}(z, \bar{z})$  are both real functions. The general solution of equation (3) is [8],

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{w}(z, \bar{z}) = & \frac{1}{16D} \iiint \tilde{q}(z, \bar{z}) dz dz d\bar{z} d\bar{z} \\ & + \bar{z} \Phi(z) + z \bar{\Phi}(\bar{z}) + \Psi(z) + \bar{\Psi}(\bar{z}) . \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $[\bar{z} \Phi(z) + z \bar{\Phi}(\bar{z})]$  and  $[\Psi(z) + \bar{\Psi}(\bar{z})]$

are biharmonic and harmonic functions, respectively.

---

1. See Appendix 1 for forms of  $g_i$  and  $G_i$ .



$$\text{Let } \tilde{w}(z, \bar{z}) = \tilde{w}_h + \tilde{w}_p,$$

where

$$\tilde{w}_p = \frac{1}{16D} \iiint \tilde{q}(z, \bar{z}) dz dz d\bar{z} d\bar{z}$$

$$\tilde{w}_h = \bar{z} \Phi(z) + z \bar{\Phi}(\bar{z}) + \Psi(z) + \bar{\Psi}(\bar{z}). \quad (3A)$$

Here,  $\Phi(z)$  and  $\Psi(z)$  are analytic functions which can be written in the following forms;

$$\Phi(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \phi_n z^n$$

$$\Psi(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \psi_n z^n$$

where  $\phi_n$  and  $\psi_n$  are unknown complex constants. Now,  $\phi_n$  and  $\psi_n$  can be written as;

$$\phi_n = p_n + iq_n$$

$$\psi_n = r_n + is_n$$

where  $p_n$ ,  $q_n$ ,  $r_n$  and  $s_n$  are unknown real constants.

Equation (3A) can be expanded as,

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{w}_h(z, \bar{z}) &= (x - iy) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (p_n + iq_n)(x + iy)^n \\ &+ (x + iy) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (p - iq_n)(x - iy)^n \\ &+ \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (r_n + is_n)(x + iy)^n + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (r_n - is_n)(x - iy)^n \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
&= 2p_1(x^2 + y^2) + 2p_2(x^3 + y^2x) - 2q_2(x^2y + y^3) + 2p_3(x^4 - y^4) \\
&\quad - 4q_3(x^3y + xy^3) + (x - iy) \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} (p_n + iq_n)(x + iy)^n \\
&\quad + (x + iy) \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} (p_n - iq_n)(x - iy)^n + 2r_0 + 2r_0x - 2s_1y \\
&\quad + 2r_2(x^2 - y^2) - 4s_2xy + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} (r_n + is_n)(x + iy)^n \\
&\quad + \sum_{n=3}^{\infty} (r_n - is_n)(x - iy)^n .
\end{aligned}$$

Finally,  $\tilde{w}_h(z, \bar{z})$  can be written as;

$$\begin{aligned}
\tilde{w}_h(z, \bar{z}) &= 2p_1G_1 + 2p_2G_2 - 2q_2G_3 + 2p_3G_4 - 4q_3G_5 \\
&\quad + \sum_{n=6}^{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} kp_i \\ \text{or} \\ kq_i \end{pmatrix} G_n + 2r_0g_1 + 2r_1g_2 - 2s_1g_3 + 2r_2g_4 \\
&\quad - 2s_2g_5 + \sum_{n=6}^{\infty} \begin{pmatrix} \ell r_i \\ \text{or} \\ \ell s_i \end{pmatrix} g_n \\
&= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} b_n G_n + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_n g_n
\end{aligned}$$

where  $c_n = \ell r_i$  or  $\ell s_i$

$$b_n = kp_i \quad \text{or} \quad kq_i$$

and  $k, \ell$  are certain real numbers.

The first five terms of  $b_i$  and  $c_i$  are

$$b_1 = 2p_1, \quad b_2 = 2p_2, \quad b_3 = -q_2, \quad b_4 = 2p_3, \quad b_5 = -4q_3, \quad \text{and}$$

$$c_1 = 2r_0, \quad c_2 = 2r_1, \quad c_3 = -2s_1, \quad c_4 = 2r_2, \quad c_5 = -2s_2 .$$







## 2.2 Derivation of the Functions $g_i$ and $G_i$ by Polynomial Method

The functions  $g_i$  and  $G_i$  can also be obtained by using a doubly infinite power series.

Suppose  $w_h$  is regular in the origin, then  $w_h$  can be written as the following doubly infinite series.

$$w_h = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{mn} x^m y^n.$$

It is noted that the coefficients  $a_{mn}$  are not all linearly independent. The relationships among the coefficients  $a_{mn}$  can be found after satisfying the equation  $\nabla^4 w_h = 0$ .

$$\text{Let } w_h = \sum_{m=0}^p \sum_{n=0}^p a_{mn} x^m y^n, \quad \text{where } m + n \leq p \text{ and } p \geq 4.$$

There are  $[(p+1)(p+2)/2]$  coefficients of  $a_{mn}$ . Further the biharmonic equation  $\nabla^4 w_h = 0$  gives rise to  $[(p-3)(p-2)/2]$  "constraint" equations which define the relationships among the coefficients  $a_{mn}$ . The total number of independent coefficients  $a_{mn}$  is

$$\frac{(p+1)(p+2)}{2} - \frac{(p-3)(p-2)}{2} = 4p - 2 \quad (4A)$$

The equation (4A) is valid for  $p \geq 4$  only. Finally, the general solution of the biharmonic equation can be written as;

$$w_h = \sum_{m=0}^p \sum_{n=0}^p a_{mn} x^m y^n = \sum_{j=1}^{(2p-3)} b_j G_j + \sum_{i=1}^{(2p+1)} c_i g_i \quad (4B)$$



where  $m + n \leq p$  and  $p \leq 4$  and the coefficients  $b_j$  and  $c_i$  are now all linearly independent.

As  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , equation (4B) can be written as;

$$w_h = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{mn} x^m y^n = \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} b_j G_j + \sum_{i=1}^{\infty} c_i g_i \quad (4C)$$

For more details, see Appendix 2.

It is noted that the sequence  $x^m y^n$ ,  $\begin{matrix} m=0,1,2,3,\dots \\ n=0,1,2,3,\dots \end{matrix}$

is complete approximating basis for a continuous function  $w(x, y)$  which is finite at the origin.

The functions  $G_j$  and  $g_i$  may be regarded as complete approximating basis for the general solution of the biharmonic equation provided the solution is regular in the origin.

A computer programme was written to obtain results using the point-matching technique. The Jordan reduction method was used to solve the simultaneous linear algebraic equations to obtain the coefficients  $b_j$  and  $c_i$  of the general solution  $G_j$  and  $g_i$ .



# CHAPTER III

## APPLICATIONS TO SMALL DEFLECTIONS OF LATERALLY LOADED PLATES WITH ALL EDGES CLAMPED

### 3.1 Uniformly Loaded Rectangular Plates with All Edges Clamped

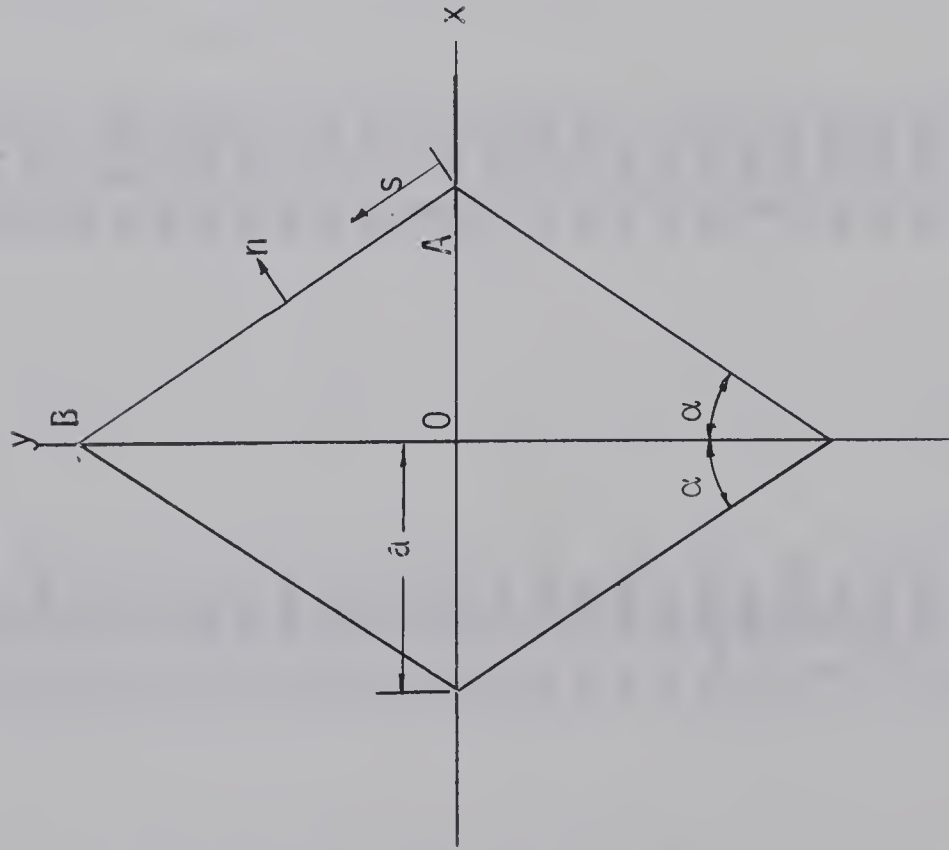
The problem of bending of clamped rectangular plates under uniform loading has attracted many investigators in the past and various approximate methods of solution are available in the literature. The most notable is the well-known solution of Timoshenko [1] where the Levy solution for a uniformly loaded simply supported rectangular plate was employed and edge moments were applied in such a way that the resulting slopes on all four edges are approximately zero. This method of solution leads to a doubly infinite set of simultaneous equations. The improved method of solution by point-matching was discussed by Conway [2] and more recently by Lo and Niedenfuhr [9]. Due to the symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 1(a)), the general solution can be written as,

$$w = \frac{q}{D} \left[ \frac{1}{64}(x^4 + x^2y^2 + y^4) + c_1g_1 + b_1G_1 + \sum_{k=1}^N (c_{4k}g_{4k} + b_{4k}G_{4k}) \right] \quad (5)$$

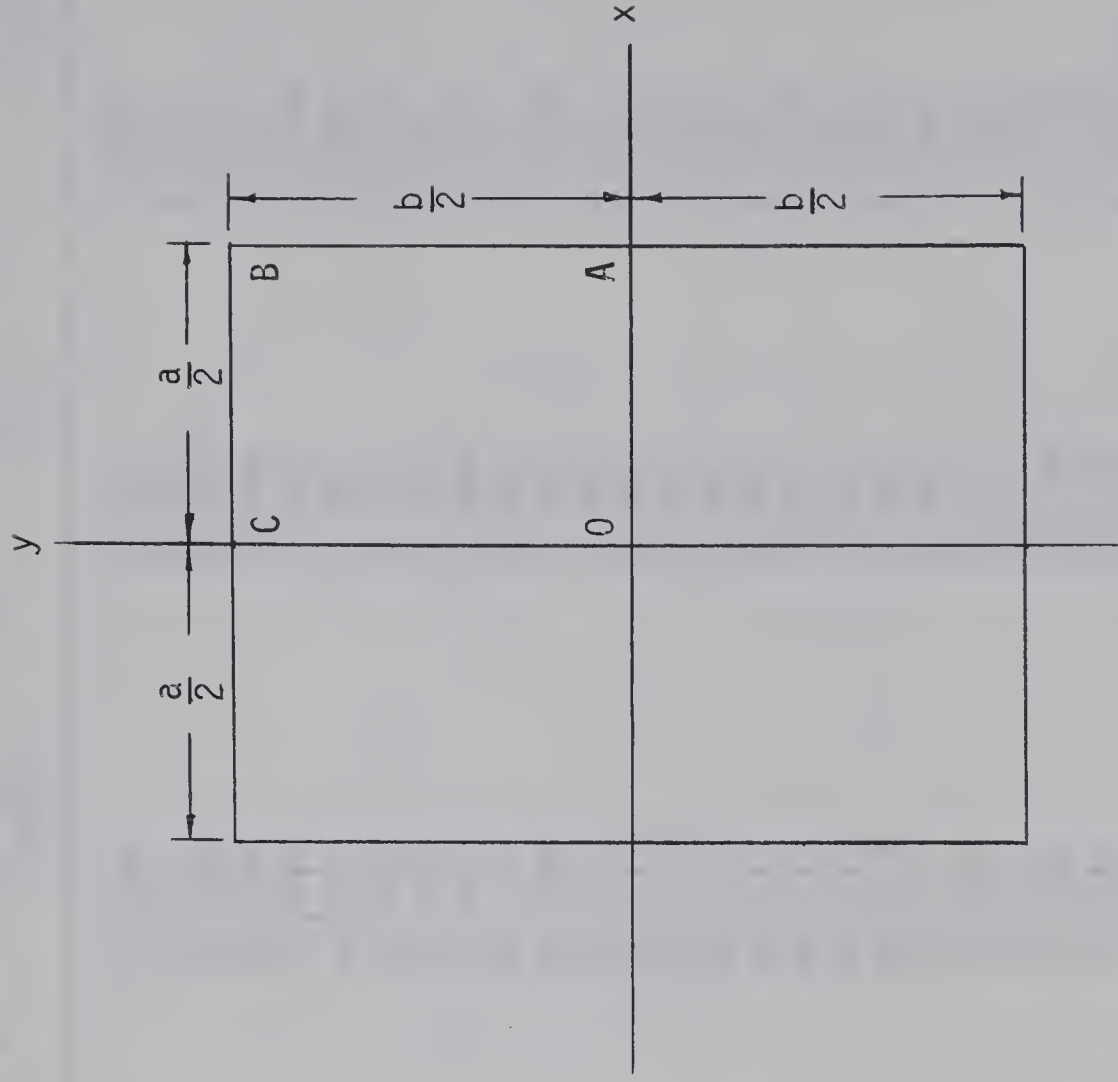
The numerical results after satisfying the boundary conditions  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0$  at 5 equally spaced points along the edge AB and  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial y} = 0$  at 4 equally spaced points along the edge BC are shown in Table 1 and compared with the results from Timoshenko and Woinowsky-Krieger [1]. It is seen that the results from the present analysis are very







(b) Rhombus Plate



(a) Rectangular Plate

Fig. 1 Coordinate systems





Table 1 Deflections and Bending Moments for a Uniformly Loaded Rectangular Plate With All Edges Clamped, Poissons Ratio = 0.3

b/a	$(wx10^2/(qa^4/D))_{x=0,y=0}$	$(M_x10/qa^2)_{x=a/2,y=0}$	$(M_y10/qa^2)_{x=0,y=b/2}$	$(M_x10/qa^2)_{x=0,y=0}$	$(M_y10/qa^2)_{x=0,y=0}$
1.0	0.1265	-0.5134	-0.5134	0.2290	0.2290
1.1	0.126	-0.513	-0.513	0.231	0.231
	0.1508	-0.5813	-0.5386	0.2669	0.2315
	0.150	-0.581	-0.538	0.264	0.231
1.2	0.1725	-0.6396	-0.5544	0.2997	0.2284
	0.172	-0.639	-0.554	0.299	0.228
1.3	0.1912	-0.6880	-0.5636	0.3273	0.2216
	0.191	-0.687	-0.563	0.327	0.222
1.4	0.2069	-0.7271	-0.5685	0.3498	0.2126
	0.207	-0.726	-0.568	0.349	0.212
1.5	0.2197	-0.7579	-0.5709	0.3678	0.2026
	0.220	-0.757	-0.570	0.368	0.203
1.6	0.2300	-0.7817	-0.5717	0.3818	0.1925
	0.230	-0.780	-0.571	0.381	0.193
1.7	0.2382	-0.7998	-0.5718	0.3927	0.1826
	0.238	-0.799	-0.571	0.392	0.182
1.8	0.2446	-0.8133	-0.5716	0.4010	0.1735
	0.245	-0.812	-0.571	0.401	0.174
1.9	0.2496	-0.8231	-0.5712	0.4071	0.1653
	0.249	-0.822	-0.571	0.407	0.165
2.0	0.2533	-0.8301	-0.5709	0.4115	0.1581
	0.254	-0.829	-0.571	0.412	0.158
3.0	0.2617	-0.8391	-0.5703	0.4190	0.1269
4.0	0.2607	-0.8350	-0.5716	0.4170	0.1246
5.0	0.2604	-0.8340	-0.5787	0.4165	0.1245
6.0	0.2603	-0.8333	-0.5962	0.4163	0.1242
7.0	0.2600	-0.8326	-0.6268	0.4158	0.1237
∞	0.260	-0.833	-0.571	0.417	0.125

Note: The numerical results with 4 figures represent present analysis and the ones with 3 figures are from Timoshenko and Woinowsky-Krieger [1].



satisfactory. Incidentally, independent calculation shows that the value 0.0231 given for  $(M_x)_{x=0,y=0}$  and  $(M_y)_{x=0,y=0}$  with  $\frac{b}{a} = 1.0$  in Timoshenko and Woinowsky-Krieger's book [1] is slightly in error and the correct value is 0.0229.

The boundary errors for deflection and slope are less than 1.6% and 3.8%, respectively, of the maximum values of the deflection and slope inside the plate when  $\frac{b}{a} \leq 3$ . In general, the boundary errors increase as the ratio  $\frac{b}{a}$  increases. It is noted that forms of particular solutions such as  $w_p = \frac{q}{48D} (x^4 + y^4)$  and  $w_p = \frac{q}{8D} (x^2 y^2)$  may be used and they all lead to the same results. In actual computation, it is more convenient to use

$$w_p = \frac{q}{64D} (x^4 + 2x^2 y^2 + y^4).$$

### 3.2 Uniformly Loaded Clamped Rhombus Plates

The symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 1(b)) shows that the equation (5) can also be used for the rhombus plate with all edges clamped. The numerical results after satisfying the boundary conditions  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n} = 0$  at 9 equally spaced points along the edge AB are listed in Table 2 together with the available results from the literature [1,10,11]. The agreement among the various results is good except in the case  $\alpha = 10^\circ$  where a maximum error of about 3% was observed for the maximum deflection.

The edge bending moment distribution are shown in Fig. 2. For the angle  $\alpha \leq 20^\circ$ , some irregularities exist around the acute corner. This



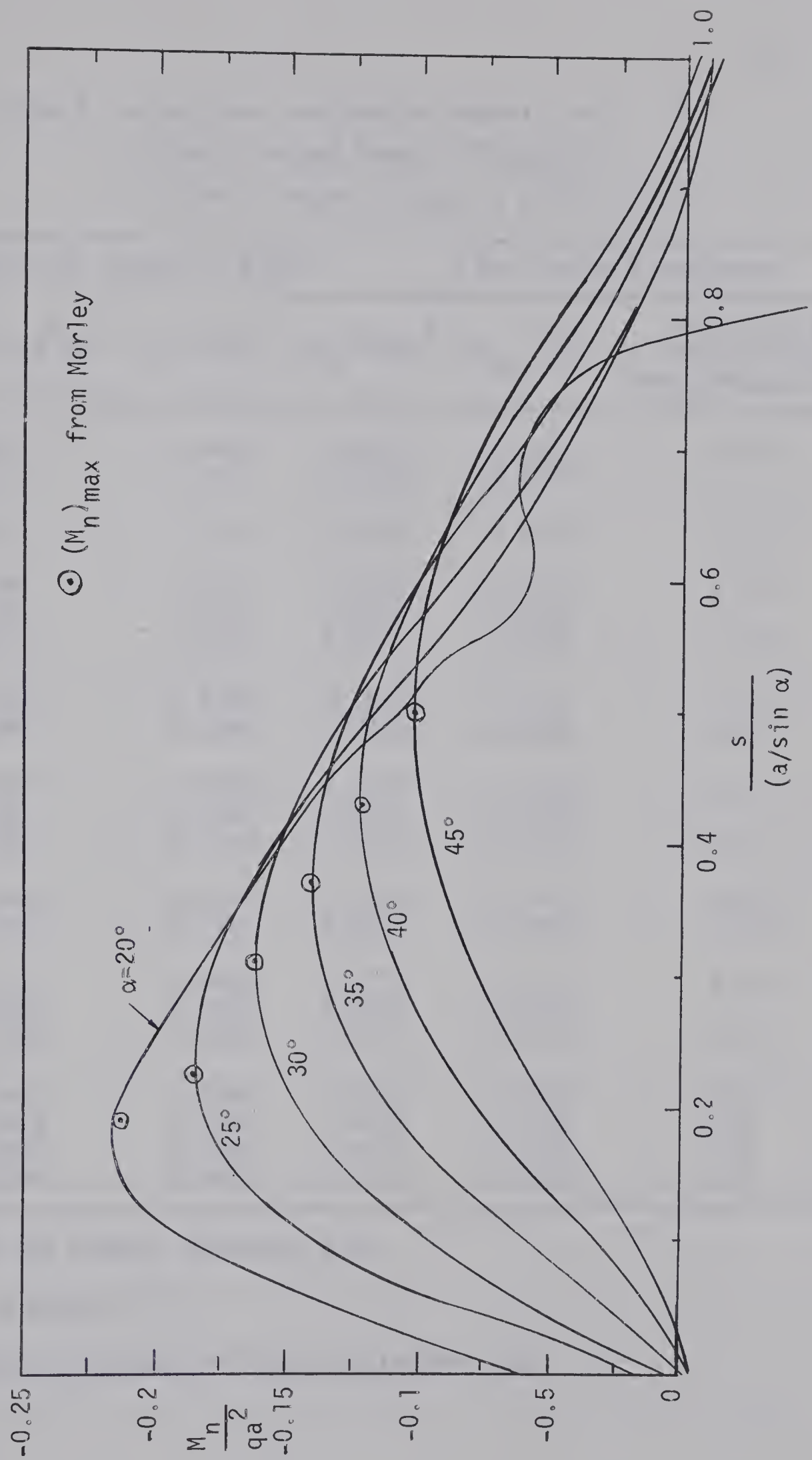


Fig. 2 Distribution of the bending moment  $M_n$  along the edge





Table 2 Deflections and Bending Moments for a  
Uniformly Loaded Rhombus Plate With  
All Edges Clamped, Poisson's Ratio = 0.3

$\alpha$ degrees	Values at center of plate			Max. value along edge	
	$w \times 10^2 / (qa^4/D)$	$M_x \times 10 / qa^2$	$M_y \times 10 / qa^2$	$M_{\max} / qa^2$	At distance $s/(a/\sin \alpha)$ from obtuse corner
10	3.021	1.359	0.6921	-0.2677	0.14
(1)*	2.819	1.347	0.7200	-0.2787	--
15	2.436	1.198	0.6906	-0.2499	0.16
20	1.964	1.054	0.6766	-0.2175	0.18
(1)	1.961	1.055	0.6746	-0.2095	--
(2)*	1.974	1.056	0.6771	-0.2120	0.18
25	1.567	0.9190	0.6527	-0.1847	0.22
(2)	1.568	0.9188	0.6528	-0.1859	0.22
30	1.229	0.7914	0.6172	-0.1620	0.31
(1)	1.230	0.7916	0.6176	-0.1624	--
(2)	1.230	0.7916	0.6176	-0.1628	0.31
35	0.9432	0.6718	0.5715	-0.1410	0.36
(2)	0.9433	0.6717	0.5714	-0.1410	0.37
40	0.7031	0.5606	0.5177	-0.1211	0.43
(1)	0.7032	0.5607	0.5177	-0.1210	--
(2)	0.7029	0.5605	0.5177	-0.1212	0.43
45	0.5061	0.4580	0.4580	-0.1026	0.5
(1)	0.5063	0.4582	0.4582	-0.1026	0.5
(2)	0.5040	0.4588	0.4578	-0.1024	0.5
(3)*	0.5040	0.4620	0.4620	-0.1026	0.5

\* (1) Sattinger and Conway, Reference [10].

(2) Morley, Reference [11].

(3) Timoshenko and Woinowsky-Krieger, Reference [1].





phenomenon was also reported by Morley [11]. The boundary errors for the deflection and slope are less than 1.3% and 2%, respectively, of the maximum values of the deflection and slope inside the plate for  $\alpha \geq 30^\circ$ . As the angle  $\alpha$  decreases from  $25^\circ$  to  $10^\circ$ , the boundary errors around the acute corner gradually increase. Despite this difficulty in the vicinity of the acute corner for small angles  $\alpha$ , the computed numerical results for the central deflections, bending moments and maximum edge moments are found to be very accurate compared with the results obtained by Morley [11] and Conway [10]. The bending moments  $M_x$  and  $M_y$  and the deflection computed at the plate corner are plotted in Fig. 3.

The numerical results after satisfying the boundary conditions  $w = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n}$  at 8 and 10 equally spaced points along the edge AB are listed in Table 3 together with the results obtained by 9 points matched along edge AB. The results of Table 3 indicate the convergence of the solution.

### 3.3 Uniformly Loaded Circular Segmental Plates with All Sides Clamped

Bending of the uniformly loaded circular segmental plates with all edges clamped have been solved by Woinowsky-Krieger [12] using the bipolar coordinate transformation method. An alternate approach to solve this problem using point-matching was attempted. The symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 4) shows that a suitable general solution is

$$w = \frac{q}{D} \left[ \frac{1}{64} (x^4 + 2x^2y^2 + y^4) + c_1g_1 + b_1G_1 \right]$$



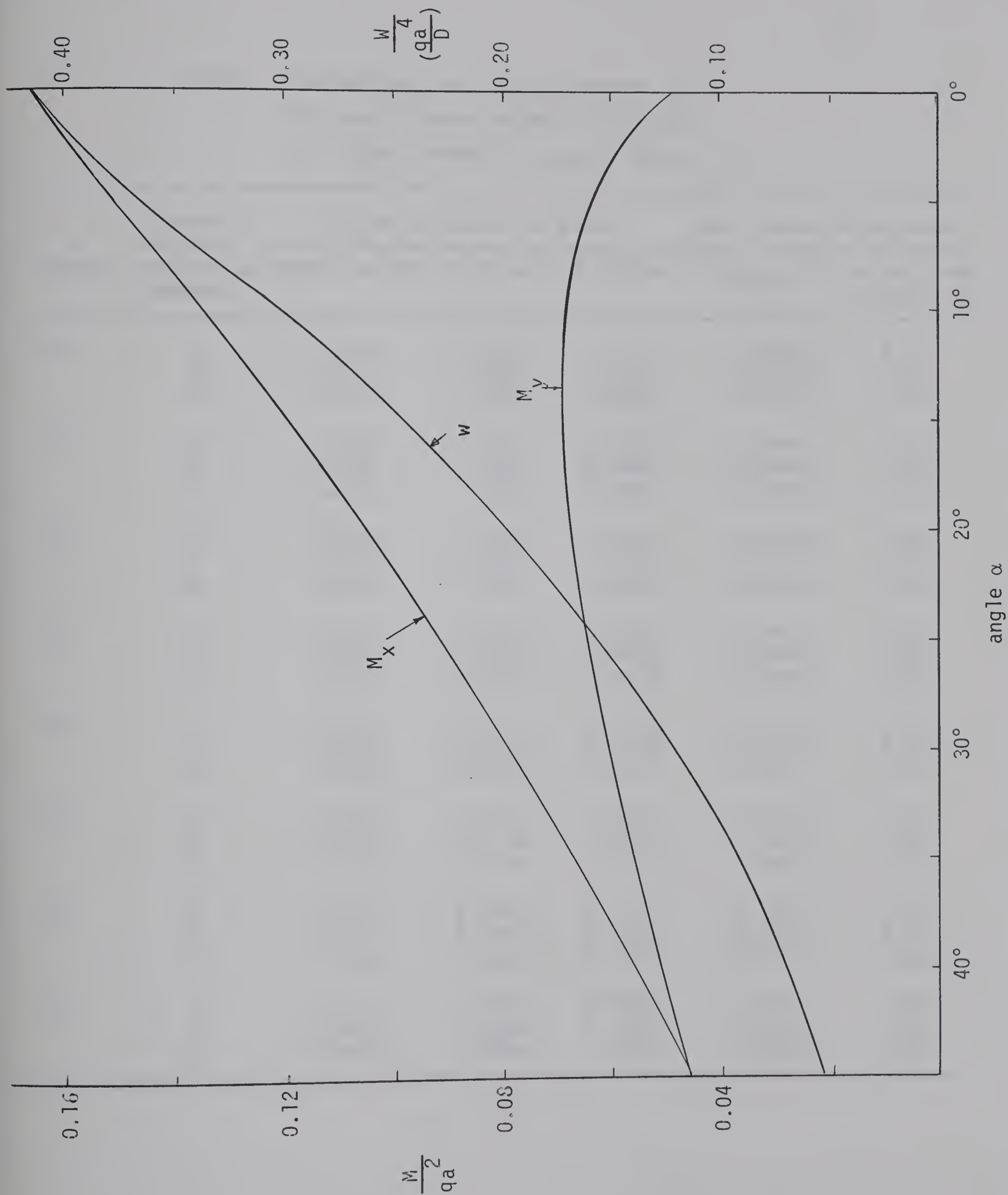


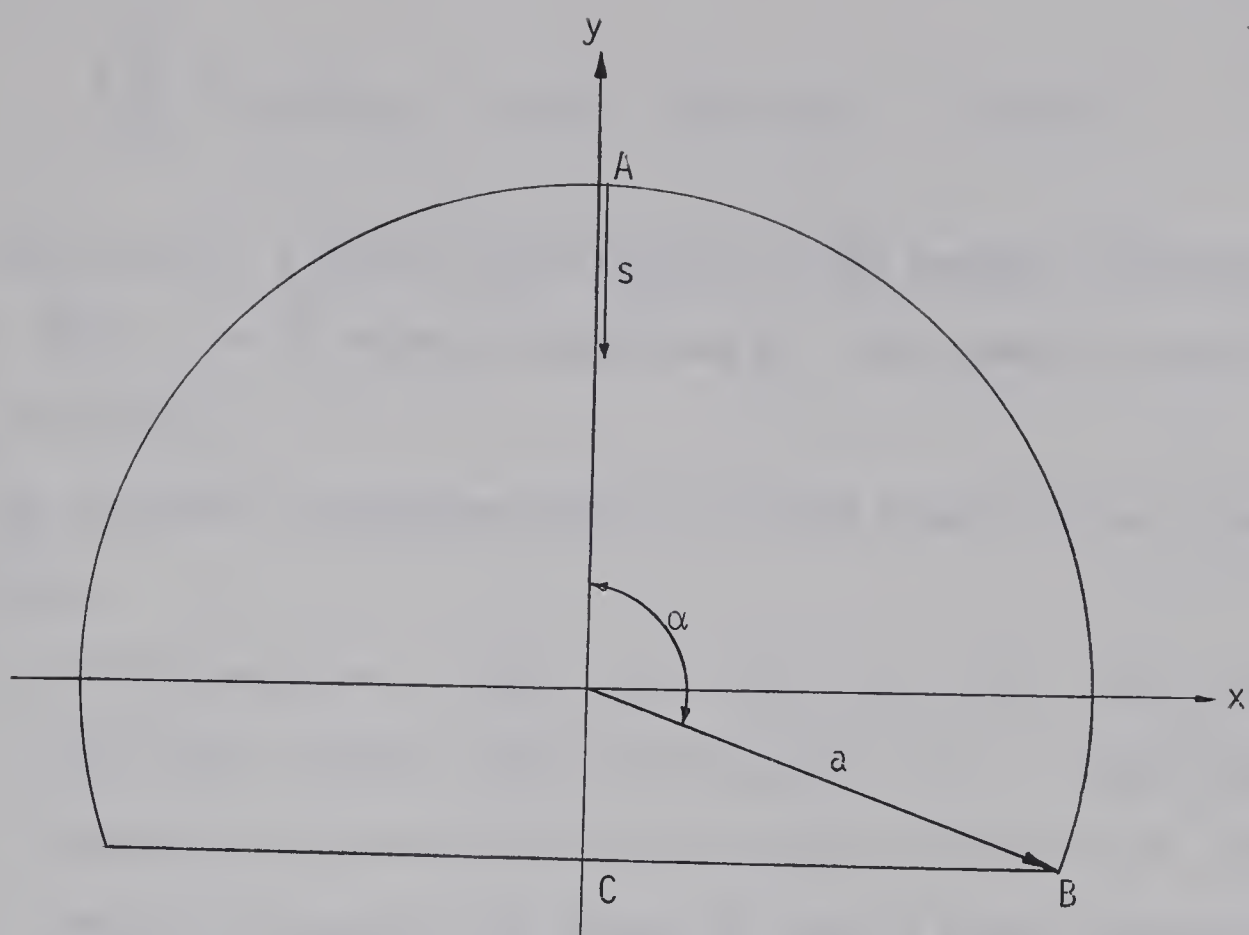
Fig. 3 Central deflections and bending moments for rhombus plates



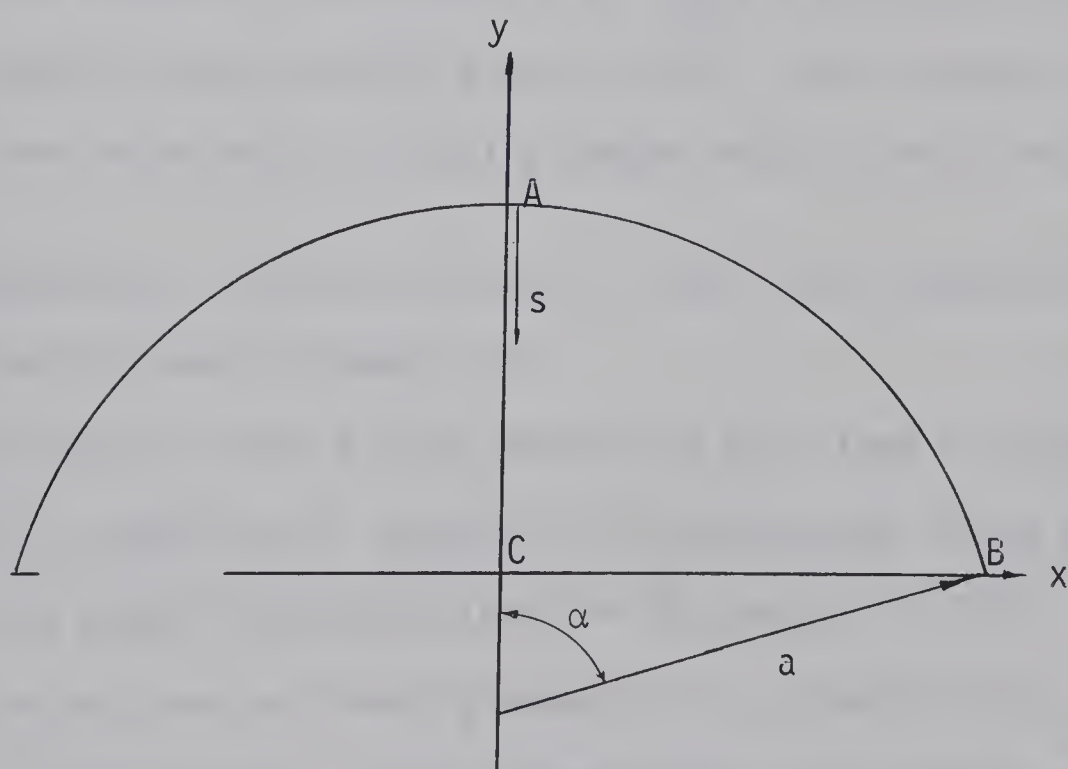
Table 3 Deflections and Bending Moments for a  
Uniformly Loaded Rhombus Plate With  
All Edges Clamped, Poisson's Ratio = 0.3

$\alpha$ degrees	Number of points matched on boundary	Values at center of plate			Max. values along edge	
		$w \times 10^2 / (qa^4/D)$	$M_x \times 10 / qa^2$	$M_y \times 10 / qa^2$	$(M_n)_{\max} / qa^2$	at distance $s/(a/\sin \alpha)$
10°	8	3.0629	1.3682	0.70141	-0.26005	0.15
	9	3.0213	1.3596	0.69212	-0.26772	0.14
	10	2.9949	1.3552	0.68427	-0.27265	0.13
15°	8	2.4495	1.1981	0.69819	-0.24846	0.18
	9	2.4356	1.1980	0.69061	-0.24992	0.16
	10	2.4278	1.1982	0.68609	-0.24996	0.15
20°	8	1.9665	1.0536	0.67879	-0.21999	0.19
	9	1.9638	1.0543	0.67662	-0.21757	0.18
	10	1.9623	1.0547	0.67565	-0.21455	0.16
25°	8	1.5673	0.91887	0.65266	-0.18694	0.22
	9	1.5673	0.91906	0.65270	-0.18465	0.22
	10	1.5676	0.91915	0.65276	-0.18382	0.23
30°	8	1.2295	0.79147	0.61703	-0.16175	0.31
	9	1.2298	0.79145	0.61728	-0.16203	0.31
	10	1.2300	0.79145	0.61742	-0.16217	0.31
35°	8	0.94316	0.67191	0.57144	-0.14129	0.36
	9	0.94326	0.67187	0.57153	-0.14097	0.36
	10	0.94331	0.67185	0.57156	-0.14081	0.37
40°	8	0.70317	0.56066	0.51769	-0.12111	0.43
	9	0.70316	0.56065	0.51769	-0.12111	0.43
	10	0.70316	0.56065	0.51769	-0.12118	0.43
45°	8	0.50613	0.45809	0.45809	-0.10261	0.50
	9	0.506127	0.45809	0.45809	-0.10261	0.50
	10	0.506125	0.45809	0.45809	-0.10266	0.50





(a)  $\alpha \geq \frac{\pi}{2}$



(b)  $\alpha < \frac{\pi}{2}$

Fig. 4 Coordinate system for circular segmental plate







$$+ \sum_{k=1}^N (c_{4k-1}g_{4k-1} + c_{4k}g_{4k} + b_{4k-1}G_{4k-1} + b_{4k}G_{4k})] \quad (6)$$

Selecting  $N = 9$  permits satisfaction of the boundary conditions  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n} = 0$  at 19 points along AB and BC. The numerical results are shown in Table 4.

The locations of matching points along the boundaries are chosen as follows:

- a) In the cases of  $\alpha = 180^\circ, 170^\circ, 160^\circ, 150^\circ, 140^\circ, 130^\circ, 120^\circ, 110^\circ, 100^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , the matching points are so located that there is one point for every ten degrees along arc AB. The rest of the points are located at equally spaced intervals along line BC.
- b) In the cases of  $\alpha = 80^\circ, 70^\circ, 60^\circ, 50^\circ, 40^\circ, 30^\circ, 20^\circ$  and  $10^\circ$ , the boundary conditions  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n} = 0$  are satisfied at 10 equally spaced points along arc AB. These boundary conditions are satisfied at 9 equally spaced points along line BC.

The numerical results are shown in Table 4 and compared to the results from Woinowsky-Krieger [12].

The boundary errors for the deflection and slope are less than 0.1% and 1%, respectively, compared with the maximum values of the deflection and slope inside the plate for the angles  $\alpha \geq 20^\circ$ .

The deflections and bending moments are plotted in Fig. 5, Fig. 6 and Fig. 7, respectively. The maximum moments for various angles  $\alpha$  are also plotted in Fig. 8 where the dimensionless quantity is  $[M_{\max}/q(\overline{AC})^2]$ . It is noted that the reference length AC is used rather



Table 4 Maximum Deflections and Bending Moments for a  
Uniformly Loaded Circular Segmental Plate With  
All Edges Clamped, Poisson's Ratio = 0.3.

$\alpha$ degree	Maximum deflections		$(M_y)_{\max}$ at point C, $M_{\max}/qa^2$	
	$w_{\max}/(qa^4/D)$	at distance $s/AC$	This Work	Woinowsky-Krieger
10°	$0.1383 \times 10^{-9}$	0.50	$-0.1921 \times 10^{-4}$	$-0.192 \times 10^{-4}$
20°	$0.3409 \times 10^{-7}$	0.50	$-0.3018 \times 10^{-3}$	$-0.301 \times 10^{-3}$
30°	$0.8191 \times 10^{-6}$	0.50	$-0.1481 \times 10^{-2}$	$-0.148 \times 10^{-2}$
40°	$0.7469 \times 10^{-5}$	0.50	$-0.4475 \times 10^{-2}$	$-0.447 \times 10^{-2}$
50°	$0.3949 \times 10^{-4}$	0.50	$-0.1029 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.103 \times 10^{-1}$
60°	$0.1465 \times 10^{-3}$	0.50	$-0.1983 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.198 \times 10^{-1}$
70°	$0.4217 \times 10^{-3}$	0.50	$-0.3361 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.337 \times 10^{-1}$
80°	$0.9893 \times 10^{-3}$	0.50	$-0.5161 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.519 \times 10^{-1}$
90°	$0.2022 \times 10^{-2}$	0.52	$-0.7314 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.731 \times 10^{-1}$
100°	$0.3582 \times 10^{-2}$	0.52	$-0.9675 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.964 \times 10^{-1}$
110°	$0.5626 \times 10^{-2}$	0.52	-0.1205	-0.123
120°	$0.8113 \times 10^{-2}$	0.52	-0.1426	-0.146
130°	$0.1065 \times 10^{-1}$	0.52	-0.1596	-0.161
140°	$0.1290 \times 10^{-1}$	0.52	-0.1659	-0.171
150°	$0.1440 \times 10^{-1}$	0.52	-0.1716	-0.178
160°	$0.1526 \times 10^{-1}$	0.50	-0.1767	-0.170
170°	$0.1559 \times 10^{-1}$	0.50	-0.1582	-0.154
180°	$0.1562 \times 10^{-1}$	0.50	-0.1250	-0.125



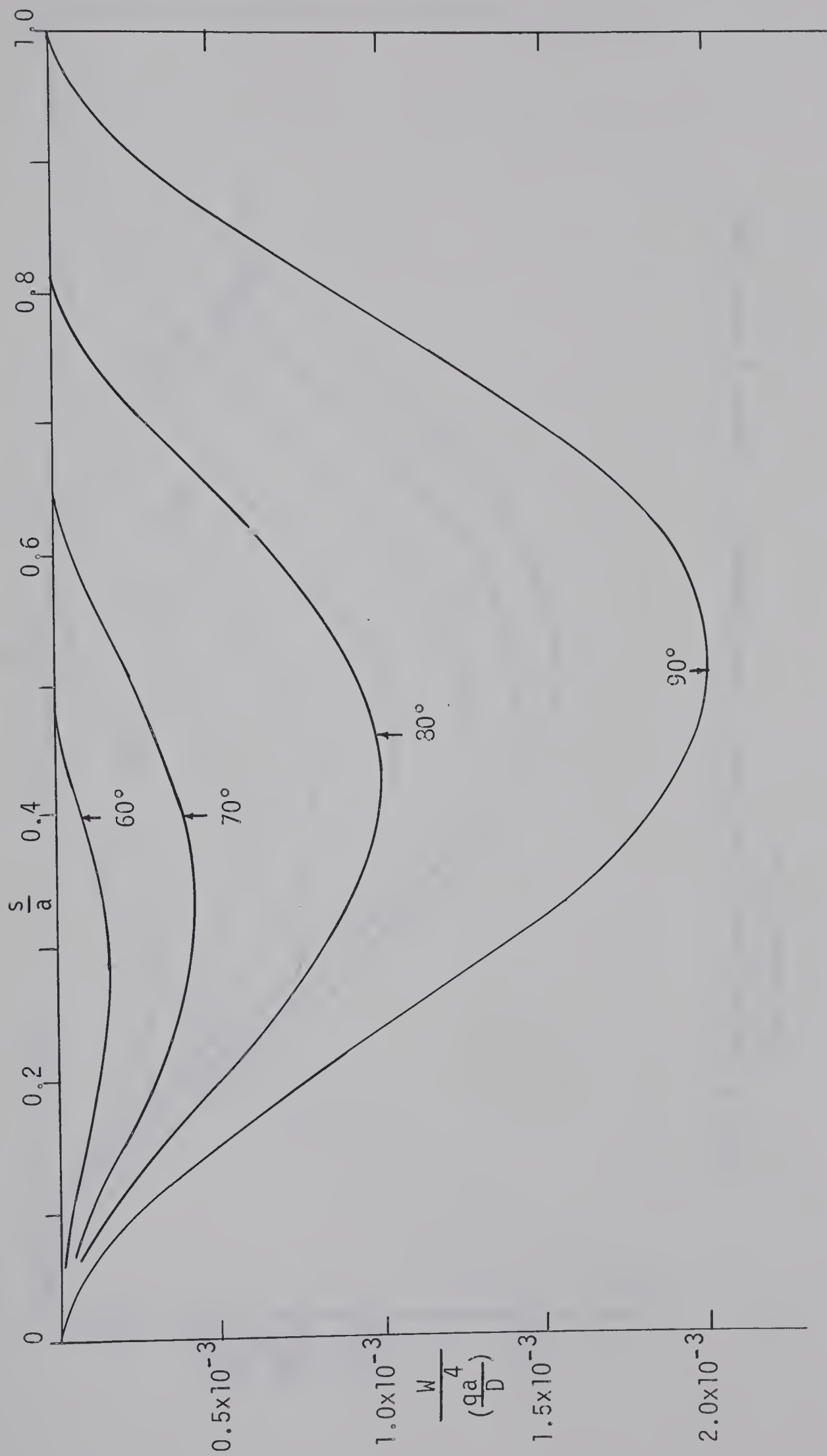


Fig. 5 Deflections of uniformly loaded segmental clamped plates along the center line



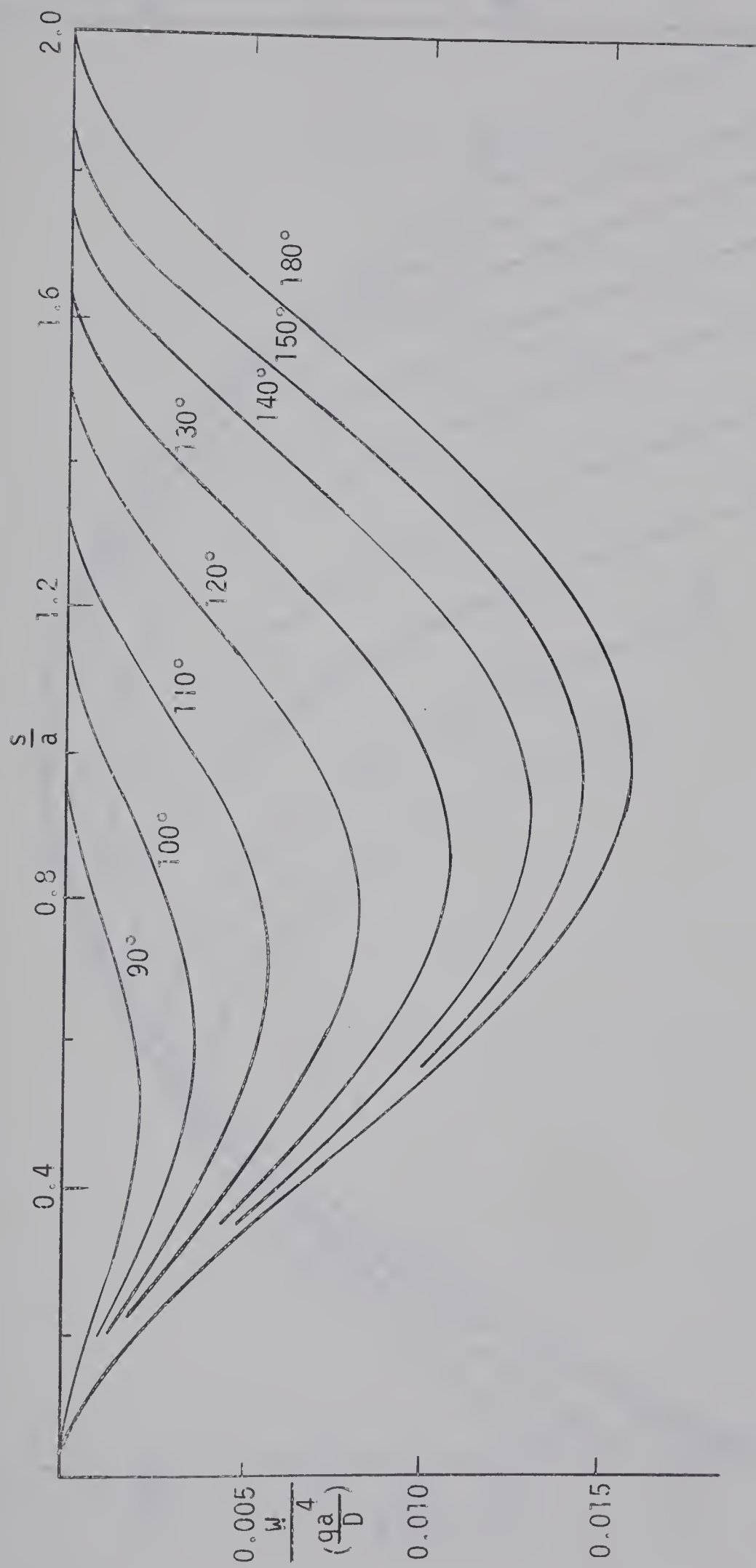


Fig. 6 Deflections of uniformly loaded segmental clamped plates along the center line





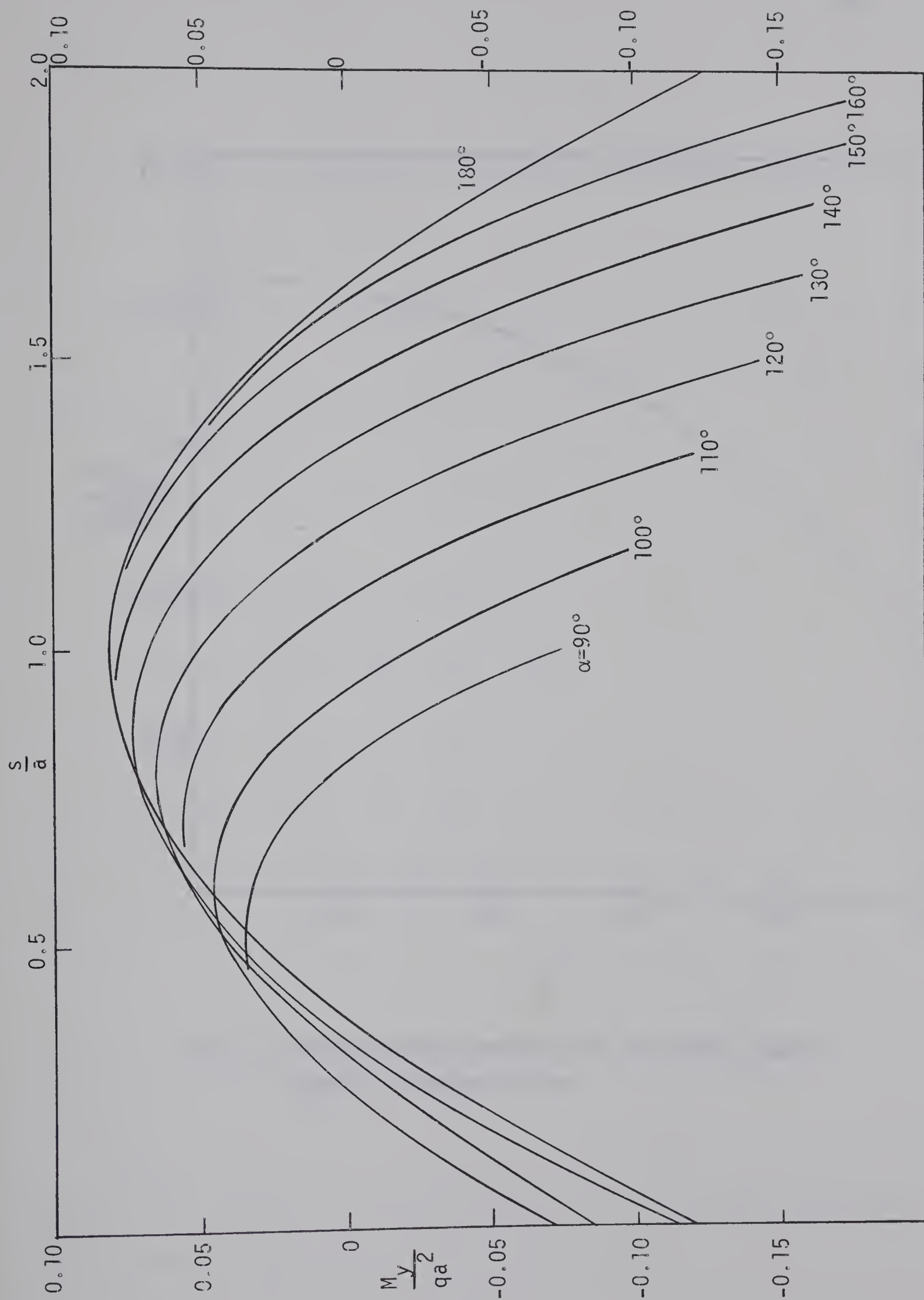


Fig. 7 Bending moment of uniformly loaded segmental clamped plates, along the center line



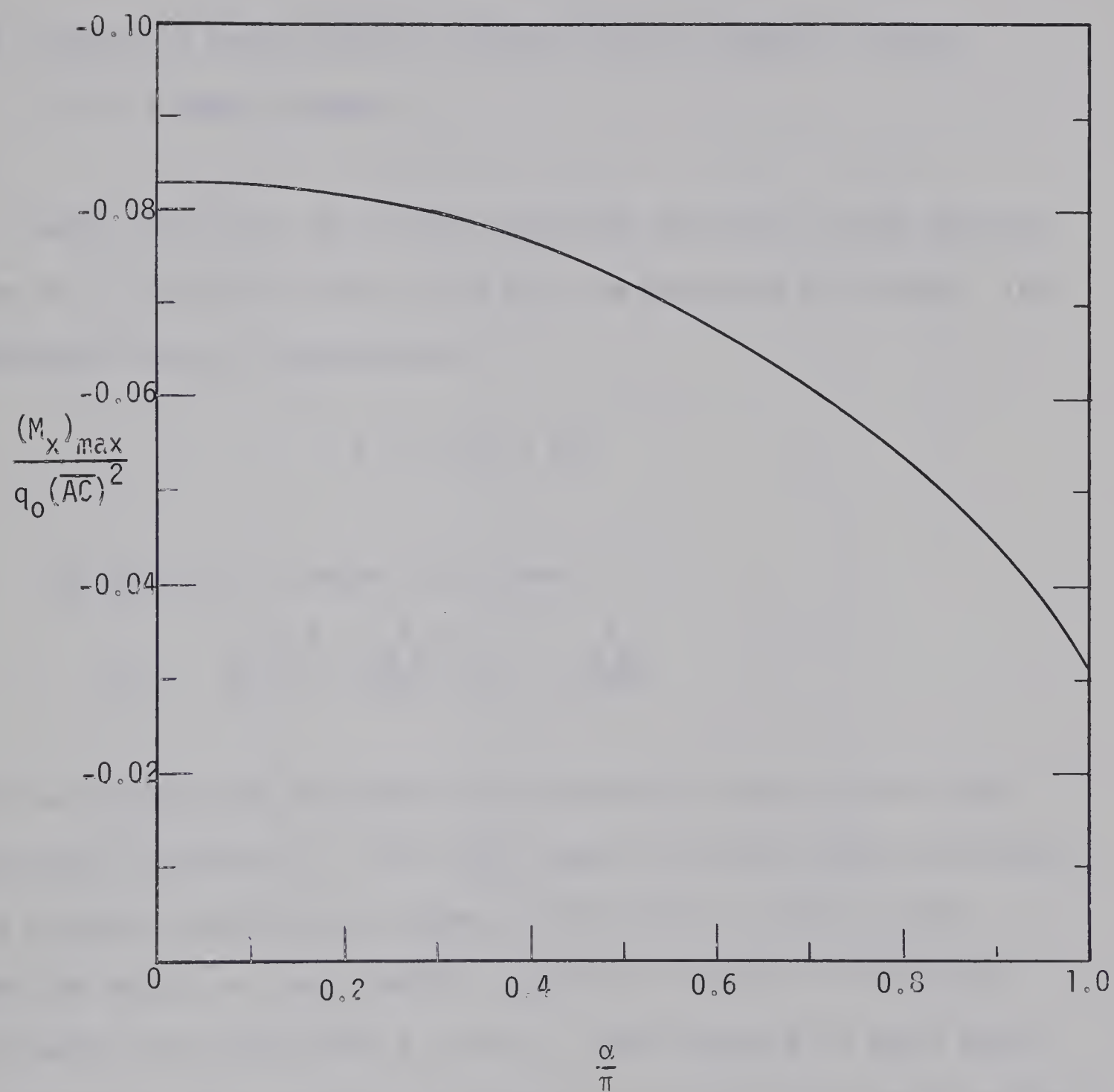


Fig. 8 Maximum bending moments for uniformly loaded segmental clamped plates



than the radius  $a$ .

### 3.4 Bending of Hydrostatically Loaded Circular Segmental Plates with All Edges Clamped

Referring to Fig. 9, all the conditions for this problem are the same as in the above section (3.3) with the exception of loading. The hydrostatic load is expressed as;

$$q = q_0 \left(1 - \frac{y}{a}\right).$$

The particular integral to be used is

$$w_p = \frac{q_0}{D} \left( \frac{x^4 + 2x^2y^2 + y^4}{64} - \frac{x^4y}{a24} \right).$$

All the analyses are the same as the uniformly loaded circular plate discussed in section 3.3. The final numerical results after satisfying the boundary conditions are shown in Table 5 for  $\alpha = 40^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$ . When the angles are less than  $40^\circ$ , there are numerical difficulties in finding the coefficients  $b_i$  and  $c_i$ . Since plates with small angle  $\alpha$  are not usually encountered in practice, so this limitation is not believed to be serious. The numerical results for this problem is believed to be new.

The boundary errors for the deflection and slope, respectively, are less than 1.0% and 3.4% of the maximum values of the deflection and slope inside the plate when the angles are  $\alpha \geq 40^\circ$ .



Table 5    Maximum Deflections and Bending Moments for a  
Hydrostatically Loaded Circular Segmental Plate  
With All Edges Clamped, Poisson's Ratio = 0.3

$\alpha$ degrees	Maximum Deflection		$(M_y)_{\max.}$ at point C $(M_{\max.})/(q_0 a^2)$
	$w_{\max}/(q_0 a^4/D)$	at distance S/AC	
40°	$0.8822 \cdot 10^{-6}$	0.52	$-0.6318 \cdot 10^{-3}$
50	$0.7083 \cdot 10^{-5}$	0.52	$-0.2221 \cdot 10^{-2}$
60°	$0.3778 \cdot 10^{-4}$	0.52	$-0.6055 \cdot 10^{-2}$
70°	$0.1435 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.52	$-0.1357 \cdot 10^{-1}$
80°	$0.4317 \cdot 10^{-3}$	0.52	$-0.2640 \cdot 10^{-1}$
90°	$0.1063 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.55	$-0.4559 \cdot 10^{-1}$
100°	$0.2213 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.55	$-0.7126 \cdot 10^{-1}$
110°	$0.3999 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.55	-0.1022
120°	$0.6431 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.55	-0.1365
130°	$0.9267 \cdot 10^{-2}$	0.55	-0.1688
140°	$0.1202 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.55	-0.1901
150°	$0.1406 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.55	-0.2097
160°	$0.1531 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.55	-0.2267
170°	$0.1578 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.55	-0.2088
180°	$0.1582 \cdot 10^{-1}$	0.55	-0.1667





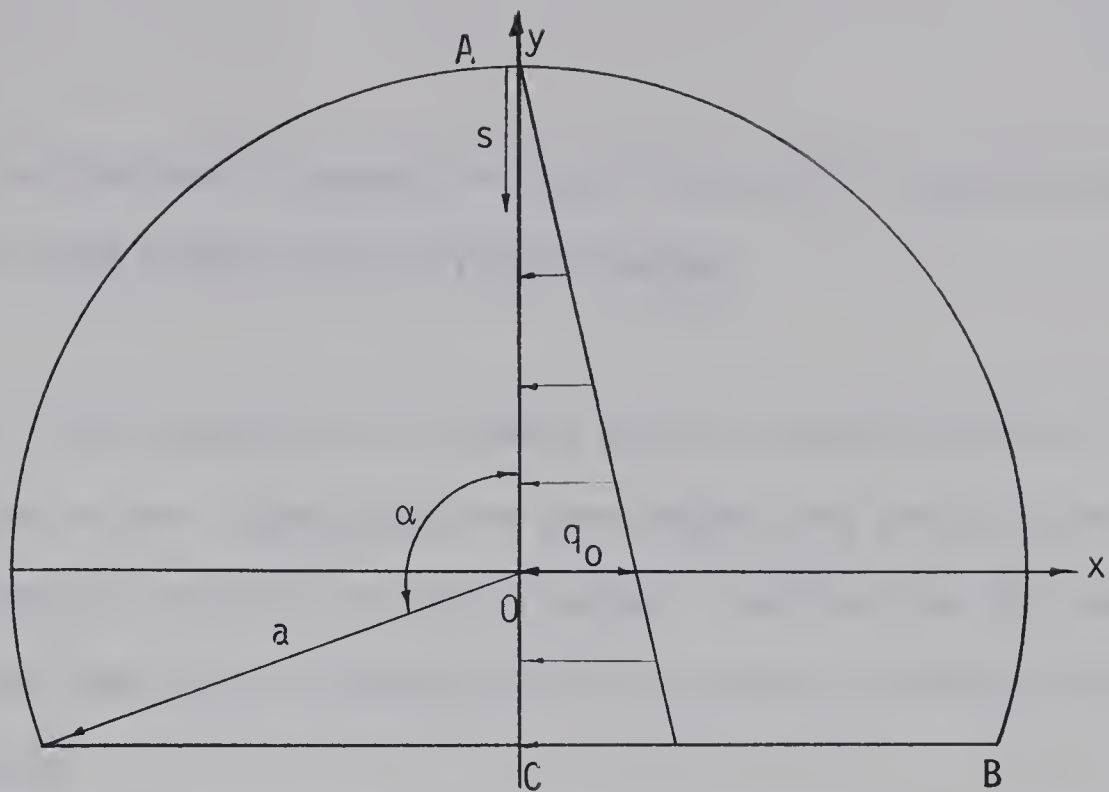


Fig. 9 Coordinate system for hydrostatically loaded circular segmental clamped plate

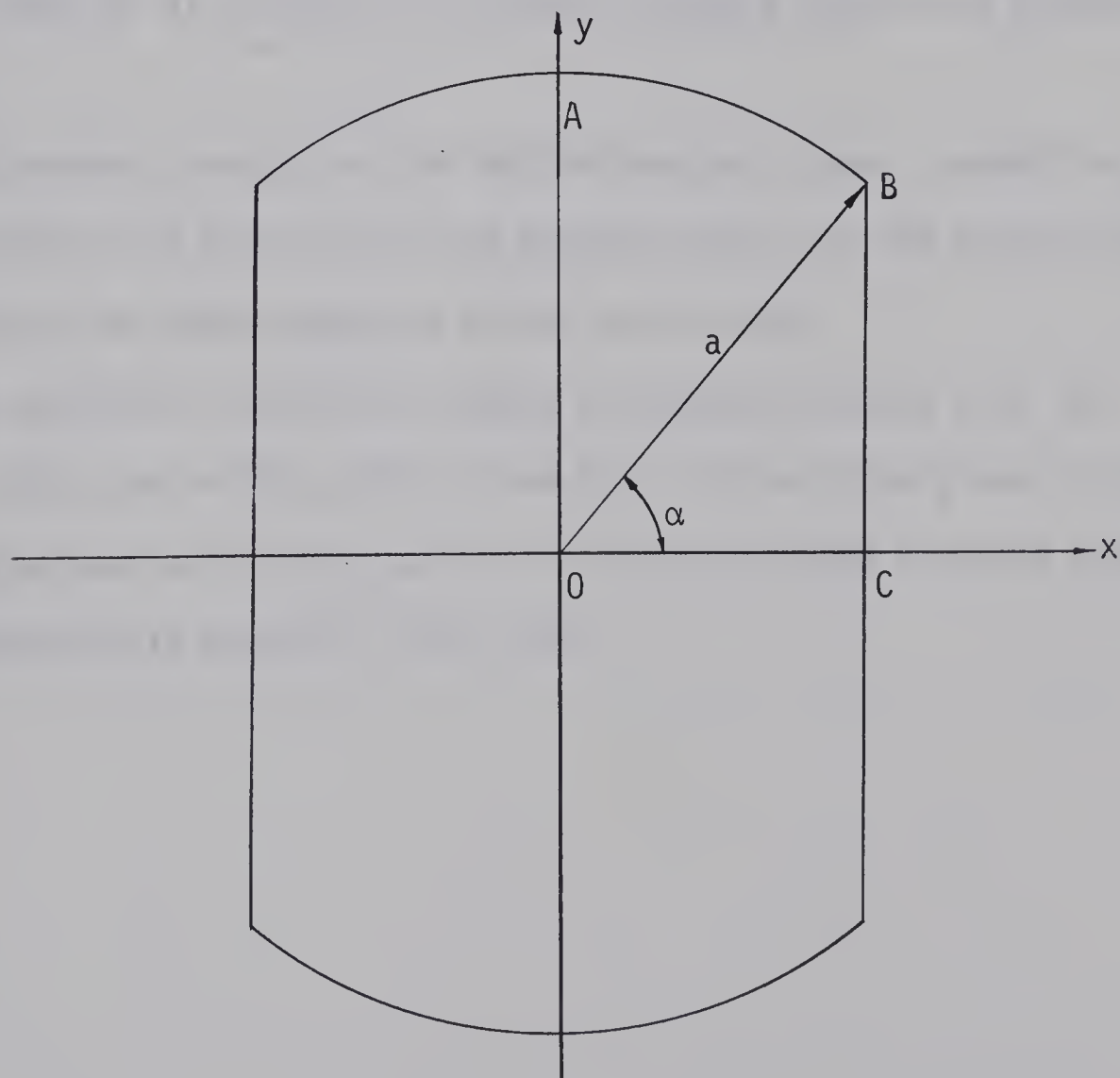


Fig. 10 Coordinate system for uniformly loaded circular plates with diametrically opposite flat sides



### 3.5 Bending of Uniformly Loaded Circular Plates with Diametrically Opposite Flat Sides with All Edges Clamped

Because of the practical importance and the unavailability of the exact solution in the literature, the same method and analysis are used to obtain numerical results for this problem. Considering the symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 10), equation (5) is also a suitable solution to this problem.

The numerical results after satisfying the boundary conditions  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n} = 0$  along the circular arc AB and  $w = 0$ ,  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial x} = 0$  along straight edge BC at a total of 10 equally spaced points are listed in Table 6.

The boundary errors for the deflection and slope, respectively, are less than 0.1% and 0.3% of the maximum values of the deflection and slope inside the plate when the angles are  $\alpha \leq 80^\circ$ .

The numerical results of clamped rectangular plates with the height,  $2(AO)$ , and width,  $2(OC)$ , (see Fig. 10) are also given in Table 6 for comparison with the results of uniformly loaded circular plates with diametrically opposite flat sides.



Table 6 Maximum Deflections and Bending Moments for a  
Uniformly Loaded Clamped Circular Plate With  
Diametrically Opposite Flat Sides

$\alpha$	$\frac{w}{(qa^4/D)} \Big _{\substack{x=0 \\ y=0}}$	$\frac{M_{\max}}{qa^2}$ at C	$\frac{M_x}{qa^2}$ $\substack{x=0 \\ y=0}$	Note
80°	$0.3788 \times 10^{-4}$ * $0.378 \times 10^{-4}$	$-0.1005 \times 10^{-1}$ * $-0.101 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.5025 \times 10^{-2}$ * $0.502 \times 10^{-2}$	$\frac{AO}{OC} = 5.76$
70°	$0.5732 \times 10^{-3}$ * $0.573 \times 10^{-3}$	$-0.3923 \times 10^{-1}$ * $-0.392 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.1962 \times 10^{-1}$ * $0.196 \times 10^{-1}$	$\frac{AO}{OC} = 2.924$
60°	$0.2524 \times 10^{-2}$ * $0.253 \times 10^{-2}$	$-0.8271 \times 10^{-1}$ * $-0.830 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.4105 \times 10^{-1}$ * $0.412 \times 10^{-1}$	$\frac{AO}{OC} = 2.0$
50°	$0.6045 \times 10^{-2}$ * $0.614 \times 10^{-2}$	$-0.1257$ * $-0.127$	$0.6121 \times 10^{-1}$ * $0.617 \times 10^{-1}$	$\frac{AO}{OC} = 1.556$
40°	$0.1008 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.1547$	$0.7433 \times 10^{-1}$	
30°	$0.1316 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.1683$	$0.7967 \times 10^{-1}$	
20°	$0.1493 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.1637$	$0.8113 \times 10^{-1}$	
10°	$0.1556 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.1542$	$0.8125 \times 10^{-1}$	
0°	$0.15625 \times 10^{-1}$	$-0.1250$	$0.8125 \times 10^{-1}$	

\* Results from clamped rectangular plate with height 2(AO) and width 2(OC).



# CHAPTER IV

## APPLICATIONS TO CREEPING FLOW PROBLEMS IN SHALLOW CAVITIES WITH VARIOUS SHAPES

### 4.1 Introduction

The motion generated in a fluid-filled cavity by a uniform translation of one of the walls (see Figs. 11, 12 and 18) represents one of the simplest examples of the steady flow involving closed streamlines, and as such has occupied a position of considerable theoretical importance within the broader field of steady separated flows. Previous work on this topic has been reviewed by Burggraf [13], who, for the special case of square cavity, also obtained numerical solution to the full Navier-Stokes equation for a range of Reynolds number  $R \equiv V_0 D / \nu$  from 0 to 400 ( $V_0$  is the velocity of the top wall,  $D$  is the width of the cavity and  $\nu$  is the kinematic viscosity of the fluid).

In the absence of the inertia terms, the equation of motion reduces to the familiar biharmonic equation  $\nabla^4 \psi = 0$ , where  $\psi$  is the dimensionless stream function. The boundary conditions are:

$$\begin{aligned} \psi &= 0 && \text{on all boundaries,} \\ \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} &= 1 && \text{at the upper moving wall,} \\ \text{and } \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} &= 0 && \text{at the fixed walls.} \end{aligned}$$

Here,  $n$  is the outward normal. As already remarked by Burggraf [13], the form of the boundary conditions precludes an analytic solution of this system by one of the standard procedures used successfully in the







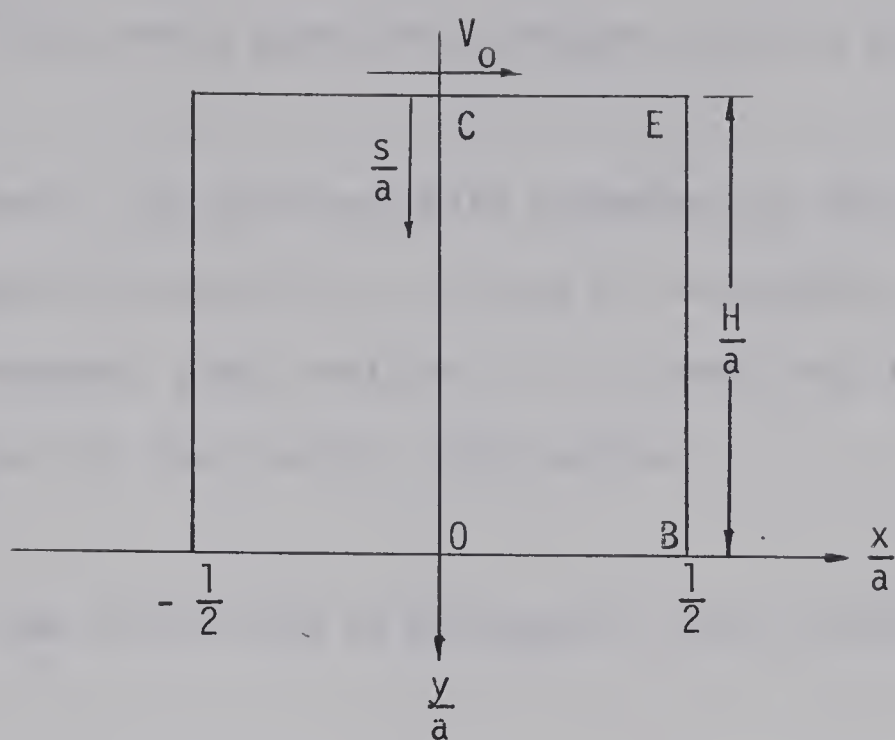


Fig. 11 Coordinate system for a rectangular cavity

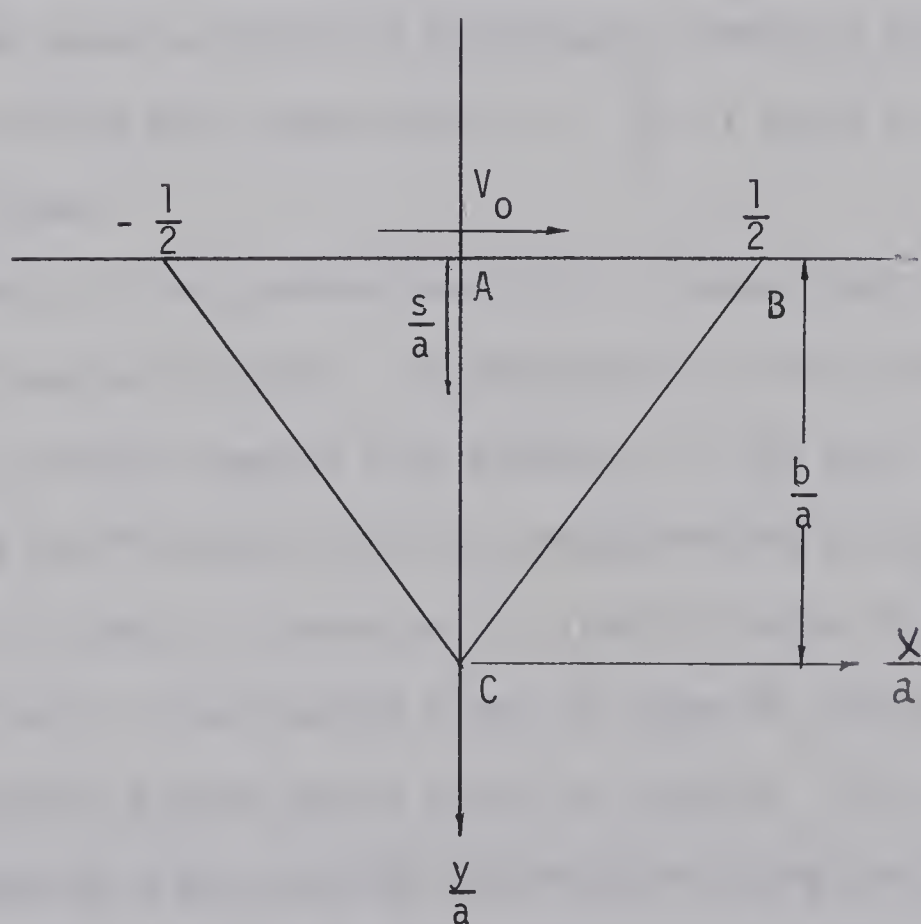


Fig. 12 Coordinate system for a triangular cavity



field of elasticity, or by approximate methods, such as variational technique.

In this thesis, the point-matching technique was applied to obtain approximate numerical results for cavities of rectangular, triangular and circular segmental cross sections. It is noted that the particular integral vanishes for the creeping flow problem.

#### 4.2 Creeping Flow in Cavities of Rectangular Cross Section

Creeping flow solutions for rectangular cavities having aspect ratios,  $A = \frac{H}{a} = \frac{1}{4}, \frac{1}{2}, 1, 2, 3$  and 5 were obtained numerically by a relaxation technique in 1966 by Pan and Acrivos [14]. In this thesis the general solution of biharmonic equation,  $g_i$  and  $G_i$ , in Cartesian coordinates was used to obtain an approximate numerical solution for rectangular cavities with aspect ratio  $A = \frac{H}{a} = 1$  and 2 by the point-matching technique.

The symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 11) shows that equation (6) is a suitable general solution. As noted earlier, the particular integral vanishes for the creeping flow problem. In the case of aspect ratio,  $A = \frac{H}{a} = 1$ , the coefficients  $c_i$  and  $b_i$  are determined by satisfying  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 1$  at 5 equally spaced points along the edge CE,  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 0$  at 5 equally spaced points along the edge OB, and  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = 0$  at 9 equally spaced points along the edge BE. The numerical results of streamline  $\psi$  and velocity distribution along the center line are plotted in Fig. 13. In the case of the aspect ratio = 2, the numerical results after satisfying the boundary conditions  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 1$



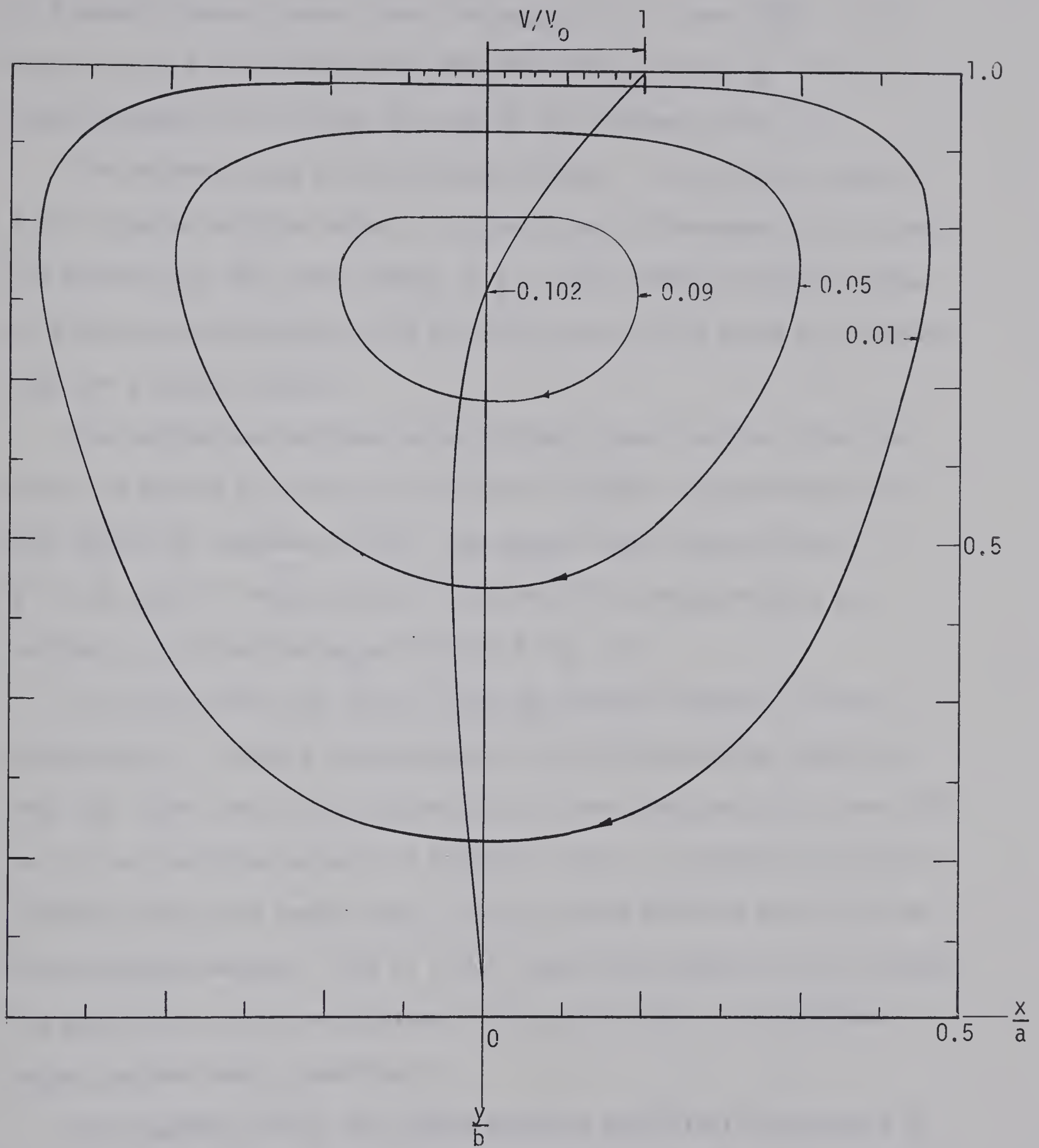


Fig. 13 Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for square cavity





at 4 equally spaced points along the edge CE,  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 0$  at 4 equally spaced points along the edge OB, and  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} = 0$  at 11 equally spaced points along the edge BE are plotted in Fig. 14.

The maximum value of the stream function at the first vortex is 0.102 compared with the value 0.1 given by both references [13, 14] and the location of the vortex center is  $\frac{S}{a} = 0.235$  compared with the value of 0.24 given by reference [14] and the value of 0.25 given by reference [13] for a square cavity.

The maximum and minimum values of the stream function  $\psi$  for the first and second vortices are 0.102 and -0.000249, respectively (0.1 and -0.00023 by reference [14]). The vortex center locations are  $\frac{S}{a} = 0.26$  and 1.55 respectively, (0.25 and 1.575, respectively, by reference [14]) for the aspect ratio  $A = \frac{H}{a} = 2$ .

It is seen that the results from the present analysis are very satisfactory. The only disadvantage of the point-matching method is that the lower corner vortices which have been discussed by Acrivos [14] can not be predicted because of boundary errors. But the velocity distribution along the center line, Y axis, can be obtained easily by the point-matching method. This is a very important property of the problem. The numerical results are plotted in Fig. 13 and Fig. 14 for aspect ratios one and two, respectively.

The boundary errors for stream function and velocity expressed as a percentage of their maximum values are less than 0.6% and 4%, respectively, for the aspect ratio  $A = \frac{H}{a} = 1$ . The boundary errors for stream function and velocity expressed as a percentage of their maximum values are less than 1.0% and 5%, respectively, for the aspect ratio  $A = \frac{H}{a} = 2$ .





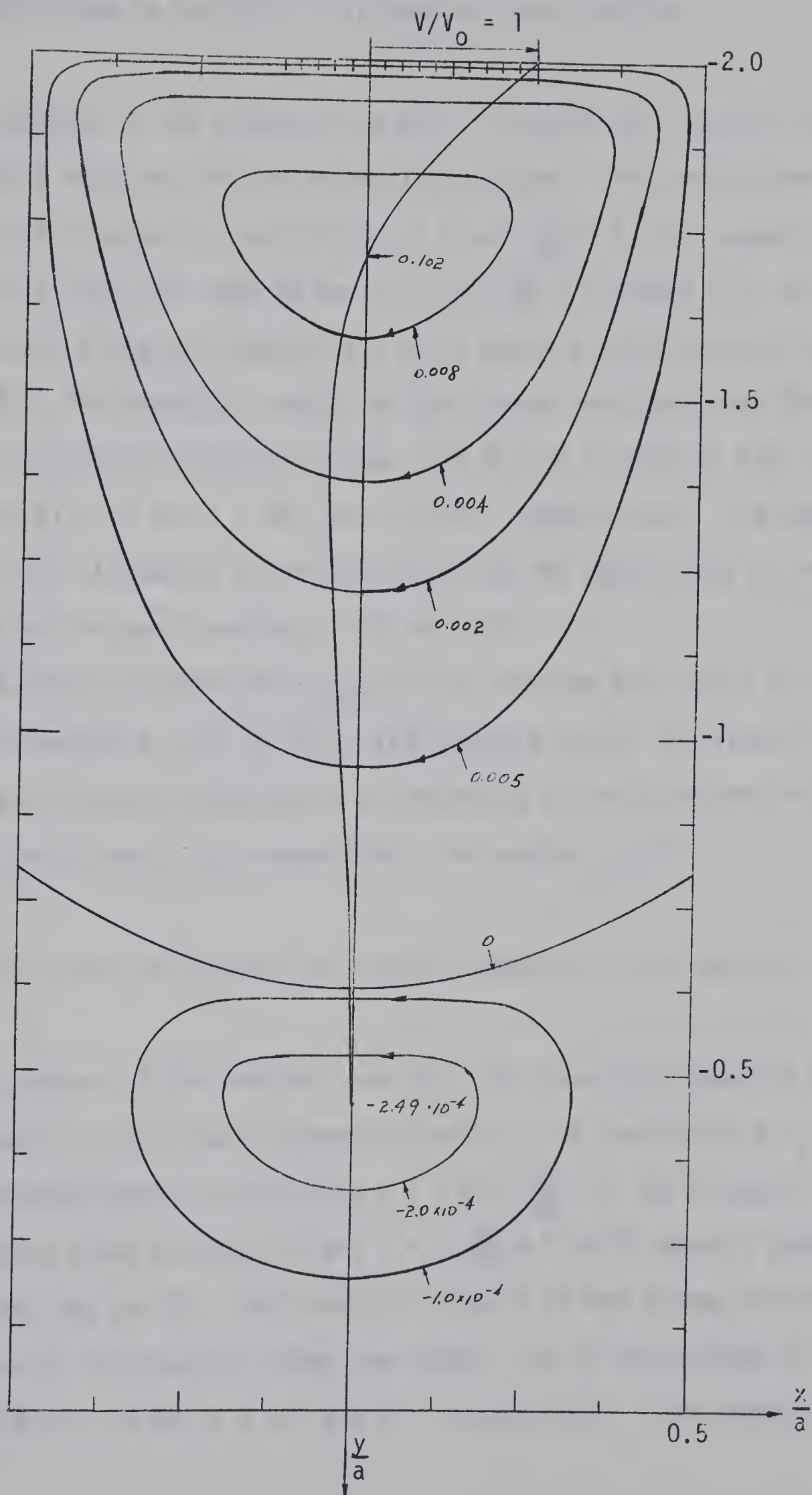


Fig. 14 Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for rectangular cavity  $A = H/a = 2$ .



### 4.3 Creeping Flow in Cavities of Triangular Cross Section

The symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 12) shows that equation (6) is a suitable solution for the triangular cavities. The coefficients  $b_i$  and  $c_i$  are obtained by satisfying  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 1$  at 9 equally spaced points along the edge AB and  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} = 0$ , where  $n$  is the outward normal along the boundary BC, at 10 equally spaced points along the edge BC. The numerical results of the stream function  $\psi$  and the velocity distribution along the center line AC are plotted in Fig. 15, Fig. 16 and Fig. 17 for  $\alpha = 30^\circ$ ,  $40^\circ$  and  $50^\circ$ , respectively. The numerical results of streamline  $\psi$  and velocity along the center line AC are also obtained for small angles  $\alpha = 10^\circ$  and  $20^\circ$ .

The numerical results for  $\psi_{\max}$  and its location are listed in Table 7 for angles  $\alpha = 10^\circ$  to  $50^\circ$ . The boundary errors for stream function and velocity expressed as a percentage of their maximum values are less than 2% and 4.5%, respectively, for angles  $\alpha \leq 40^\circ$ .

### 4.4 Creeping Flow in Cavities of Circular Segmental Cross Section

The symmetry of the problem (see Fig. 18) shows that equation (6) can be used for the circular segmental cavity. The coefficients  $b_i$  and  $c_i$  are determined by satisfying  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} = 1$  at 9 equally spaced points along the edge AB and  $\psi = 0$  and  $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial n} = 0$  at 10 equally spaced points along the arc BC. The numerical results of the stream function  $\psi$  and velocity distribution along the center line AC are plotted in Fig. 19 and Fig. 20 for  $\alpha = 60^\circ$  and  $90^\circ$ , respectively. The numerical



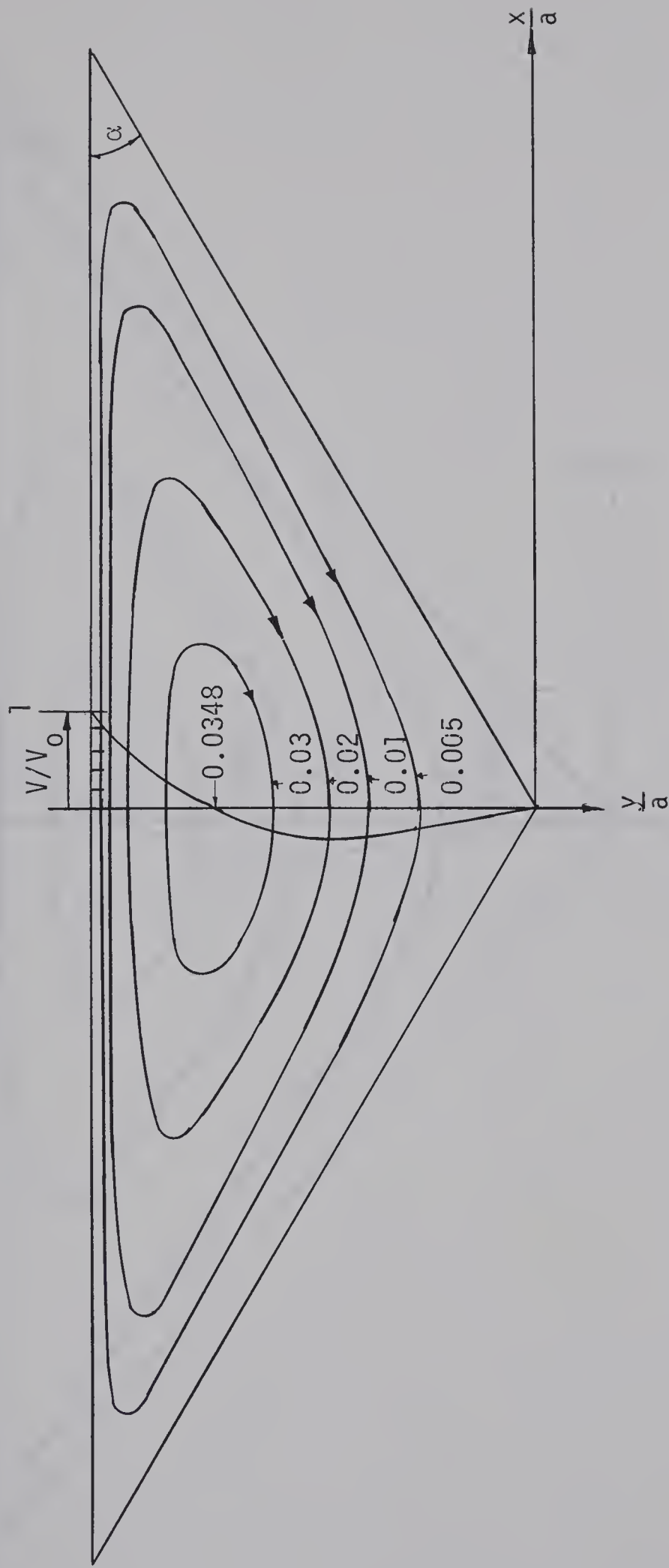


Fig. 15 Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for the triangular cavity for  $\alpha = 30^\circ$



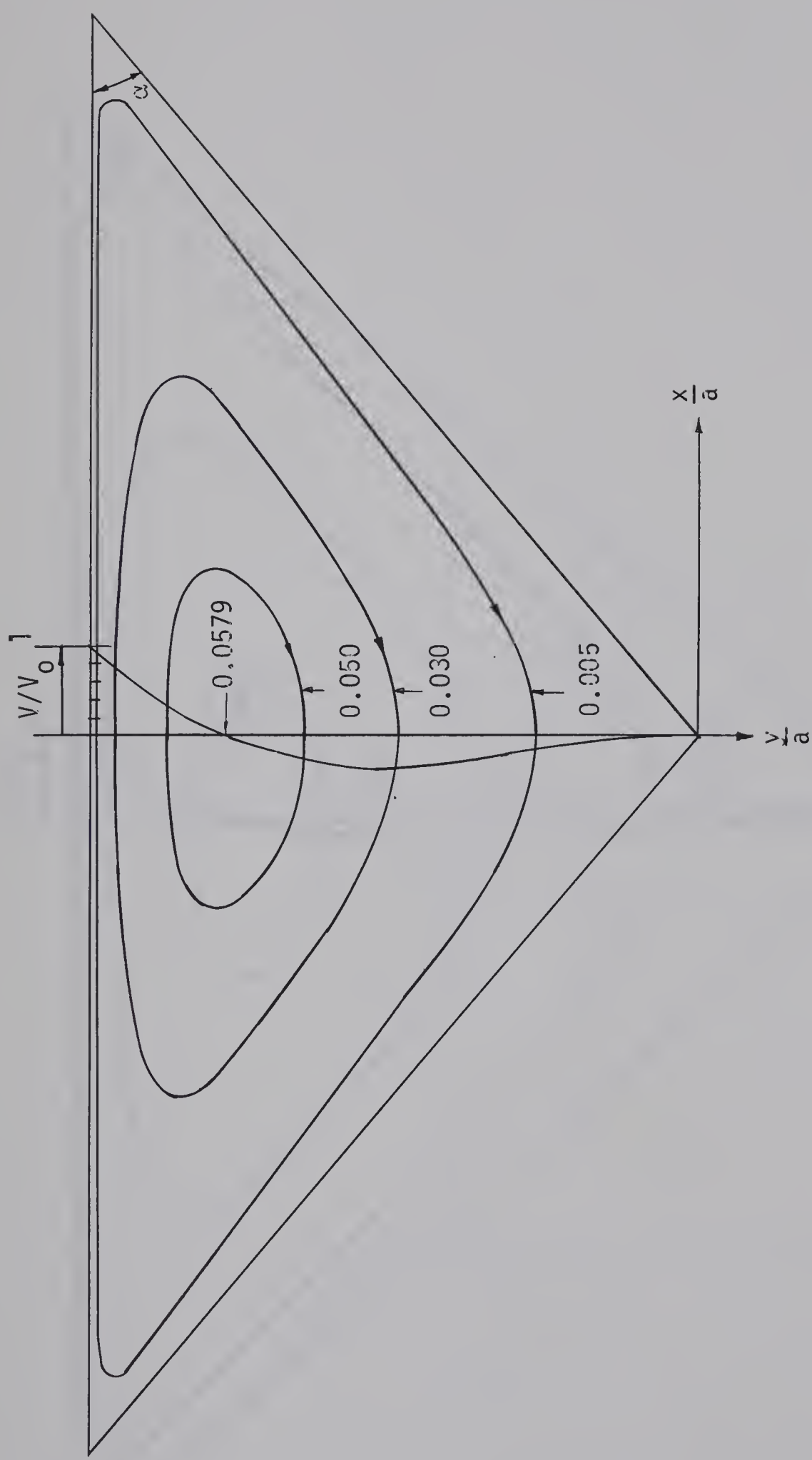


Fig. 16 Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for the triangular cavity for  $\alpha = 40^\circ$







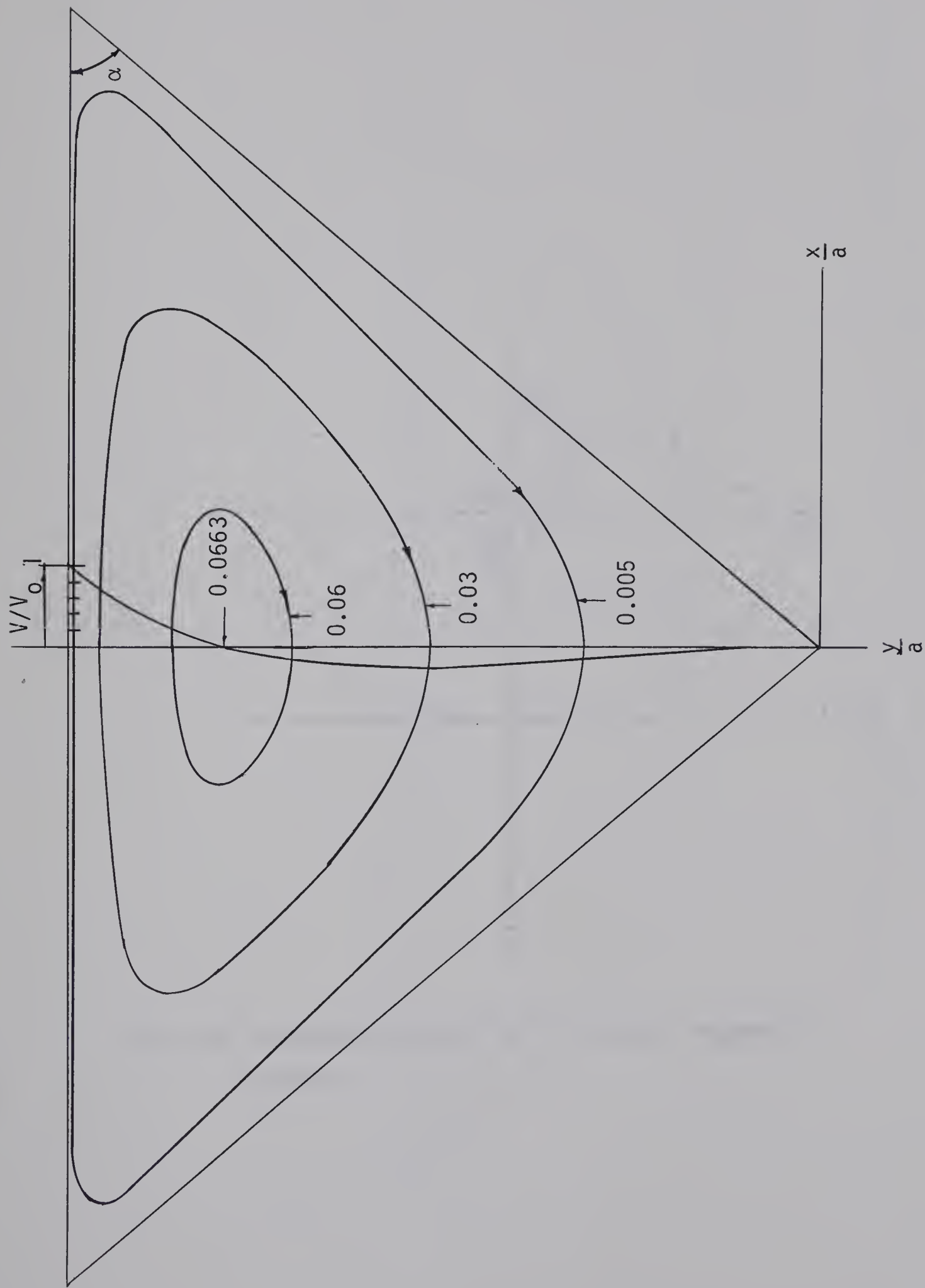


Fig. 17 Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for the triangular cavity for  $\alpha = 50^\circ$



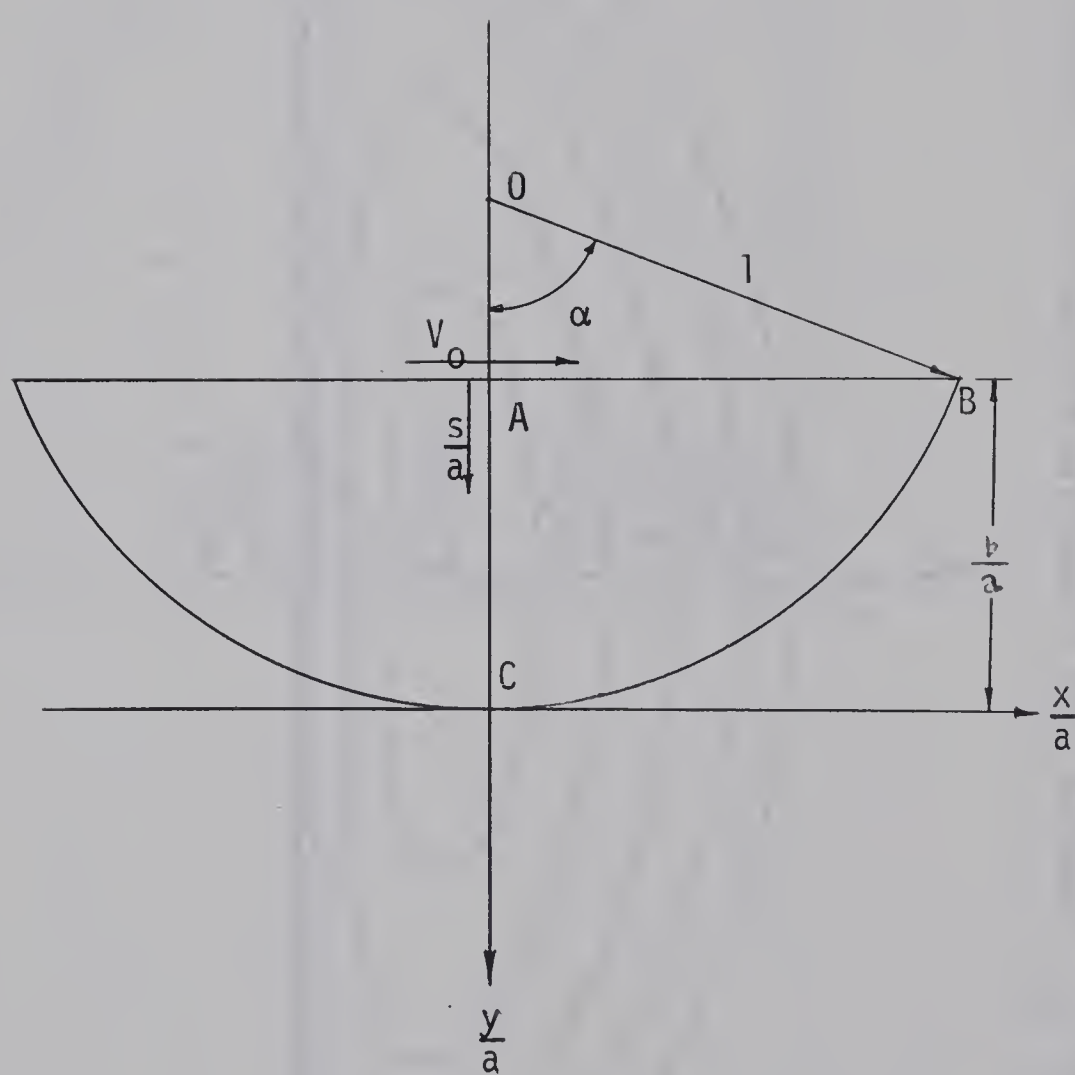


Fig. 18 Coordinate system for a circular segmental cavity



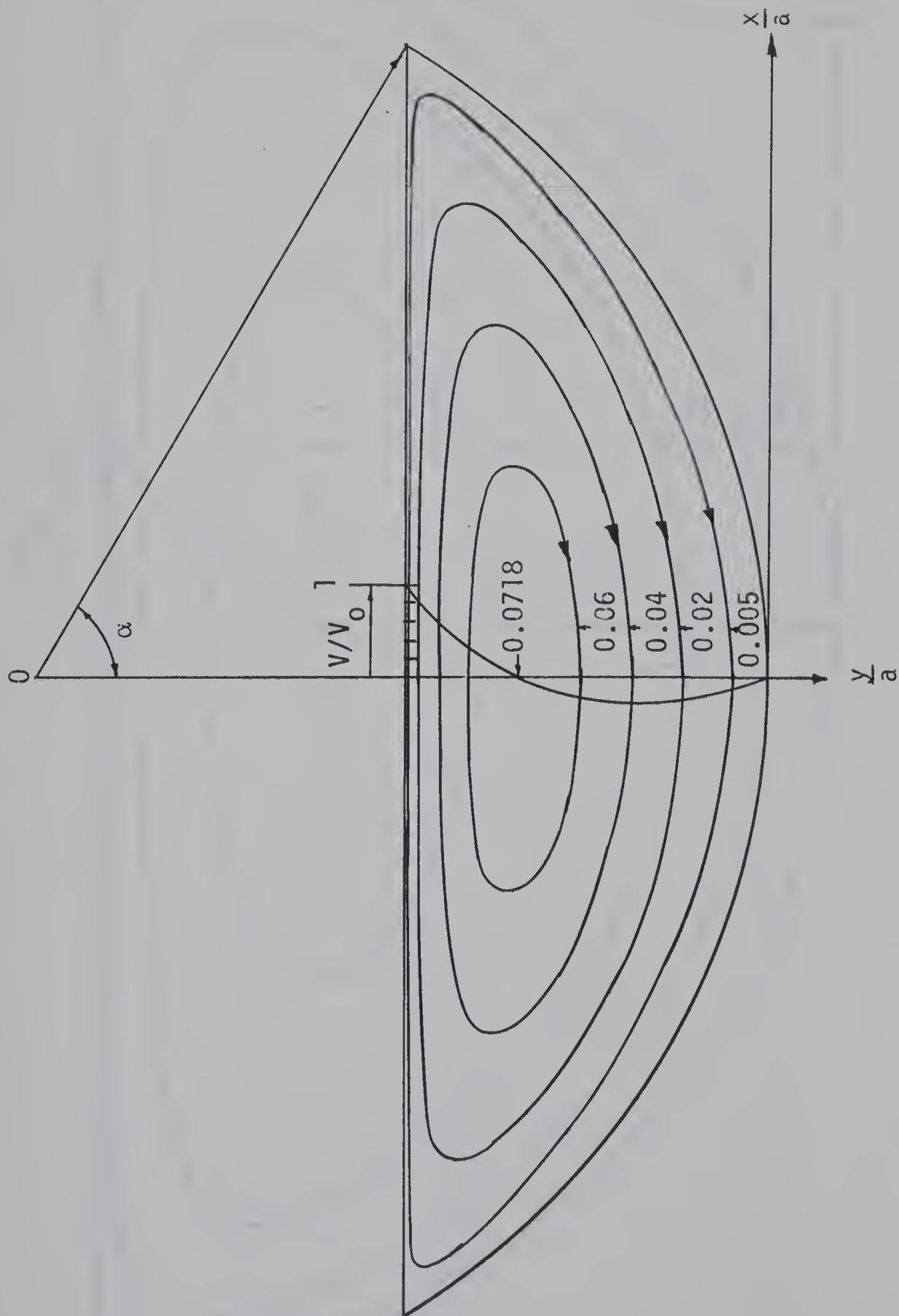


Fig. 19 Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for circular segmental cavity for  $\alpha = 60^\circ$



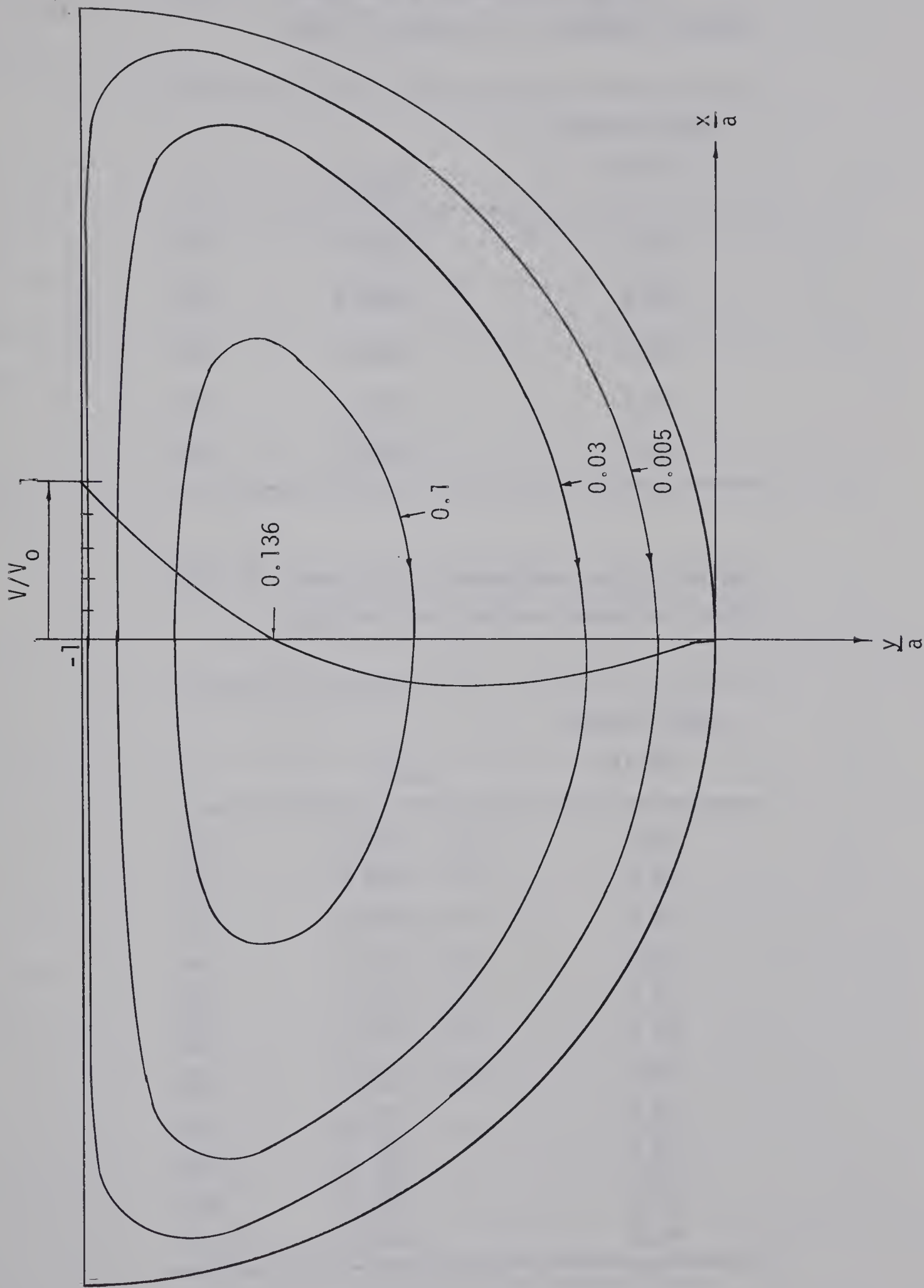


Fig. 20. Creeping flow streamline patterns and velocity distribution along the center line for the circular segmental cavity for  $\alpha = 90^\circ$





Table 7 Numerically determined vortex  
center location in triangular cavity

$\alpha$	$\psi_{\max}$	Vortex Center (s/b)
10°	0.0126	0.32
20°	0.0242	0.30
30°	0.0350	0.27
40°	0.0579	0.23
50°	0.0663	0.23

Table 8 Numerically determined vortex center  
location in circular segmental cavity

$\alpha$	$\psi_{\max}$	Vortex Center (s/b)
10°	$0.225 \times 10^{-2}$	0.35
20°	$0.890 \times 10^{-2}$	0.32
30°	$0.197 \times 10^{-1}$	0.32
40°	$0.342 \times 10^{-1}$	0.32
50°	$0.519 \times 10^{-1}$	0.32
60°	$0.718 \times 10^{-1}$	0.32
70°	$0.932 \times 10^{-1}$	0.32
80°	0.115	0.32
90°	0.136	0.30
100°	0.155	0.30
110°	0.170	0.30



results of maximum stream function  $\psi$  and its location are listed in Table 8 for angles  $\alpha = 10^\circ$  to  $110^\circ$ .

The boundary errors for stream function and velocity expressed as a percentage of their maximum values are less than 1.5% and 4%, respectively, for  $\alpha \leq 60^\circ$ . As the angle  $\alpha$  increases from  $80^\circ$  to  $110^\circ$  the boundary errors around the upper corner gradually increase. The maximum boundary errors for velocity is about 7% around the upper corner for  $\alpha = 70^\circ$ .

The reason that the large boundary errors for velocity occur in the vicinity of the upper corner for all the creeping flow problems will be discussed next.

The numerical results show that there are large boundary errors for velocity in the region of the upper corner for creeping flow problems due to the discontinuity of the velocity in this corner. It is physically impossible that a velocity field is discontinuous at a certain point since the shear stress should be infinite. Mathematically, the solution of biharmonic equation should be continuous in the second derivative in the whole region of the problem. However, the exact solution of the creeping flow stream function subject to the boundary conditions used must have a discontinuity in its first derivatives at the upper corner E. But the approximate solution is written in terms of a series of  $g_i$  and  $G_i$  which are continuous in their first derivative (actually continuous up to  $n$ th derivative, where  $n$  can be any positive integer). Consequently, the error in the first derivative of the approximate solution is large in the neighbourhood of the upper corner.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUDING REMARKS

1. The exact solution in Cartesian coordinates can be used for a class of problems governed by the biharmonic equation, such as uniformly loaded thin plate with all edges clamped and creeping flow problems.
2. The well known general solution of the biharmonic equations in polar coordinates can not be readily applied to problems such as uniformly loaded clamped rectangular plates with large aspect ratios and uniformly loaded clamped rhombus plates with small angles  $\alpha$  (see Fig. 1(a) and (b)). In contrast, the general solution of the biharmonic equation in Cartesian coordinates yields the approximate solutions to the above problems readily. However, it is noted that the expressions for the harmonic functions  $g_i$  and biharmonic functions  $G_i$  become quite involved as the number of terms to be used increases.
3. The numerical results indicate that the point-matching technique can be used for the biharmonic boundary value problems when the boundary conditions are of the Cauchy type, i.e.  $w$  and  $\frac{\partial w}{\partial n}$  are specified along the boundary. The boundary errors are very small





compared with the maximum values inside the region for most of the clamped plates. However, for the clamped rhombus plate with angles  $\alpha$  less than  $25^\circ$  and the clamped circular segmental plate with angles  $\alpha$  less than  $30^\circ$ , larger boundary deviations were found.

4. Several problems with boundary conditions other than the Cauchy boundary conditions were attempted using these functions  $g_j$  and  $G_j$  and the point-matching technique. In most cases boundary errors were large in comparison to the maximum values inside the region. Reasonable results for problems with non-Cauchy type boundary conditions are obtained only in the case of the uniformly loaded, simply supported rhombus plate with angles  $\alpha = 45^\circ$  and  $40^\circ$  (see Fig. 1(b)). Numerical results are listed in Table 9, where the boundary conditions  $w = 0$  and  $M_n = 0$ , are satisfied at 9 equally spaced points along edge AB. The boundary errors for deflection and bending moment are less than 0.4% and 1.5%, respectively, compared with the maximum values of the deflection and bending moment inside the plate. When the angle  $\alpha$  is  $35^\circ$ , the maximum boundary errors for the deflection and bending moment are approximately 0.6% and 7%, respectively, compared to the maximum values of the deflection and bending moment inside the plate.





It is also found that errors become large when the boundary condition involves the second derivative of the deflection.



Table 9    Maximum Deflection and Bending Moments of a  
              Uniformly Loaded Rhombus Plate With All Edges  
              Simply Supported

degree $\alpha$	$\left(\frac{\frac{w}{4}}{qa^2 D}\right)_{(0,0)}$	$\left(\frac{M_x}{qa^2}\right)_{(0,0)}$	$\left(\frac{M_y}{qa^2}\right)_{(0,0)}$
45°	$0.16249 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.95771 \times 10^{-1}$	$0.95771 \times 10^{-1}$
40°	$0.22953 \times 10^{-1}$	0.11844	0.10916



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# APPENDIX 1

## THE g FUNCTIONS

$$\begin{aligned}
 g_1 &= 1 \\
 g_2 &= x \\
 g_3 &= y \\
 g_4 &= x^2 - y^2 \\
 g_5 &= 2xy \\
 g_6 &= x^3 - 3xy^2 \\
 g_7 &= 3x^2y - y^3 \\
 g_8 &= x^4 + y^4 - 6x^2y^2 \\
 g_9 &= 4x^3y - 4xy^3 \\
 g_{10} &= x^5 - 10x^3y^2 + 5xy^4 \\
 g_{11} &= y^5 - 10y^3x^2 + 5yx^4 \\
 g_{12} &= x^6 - 15x^4y^2 + 15x^2y^4 - y^6 \\
 g_{13} &= 6x^5y + 6xy^5 - 20x^3y^3 \\
 g_{14} &= x^7 - 21x^5y^2 + 35x^3y^4 - 7xy^6 \\
 g_{15} &= 7x^6y - 35x^4y^3 + 21x^2y^5 - y^7 \\
 g_{16} &= x^8 + y^8 - 28x^6y^2 + 70x^4y^4 - 28x^2y^6 \\
 g_{17} &= 8x^7y - 56x^5y^3 + 56x^3y^5 - 8xy^7 \\
 g_{18} &= x^9 - 36x^7y^2 + 126x^5y^4 - 84x^3y^6 + 9xy^8 \\
 g_{19} &= 9x^8y - 84x^6y^3 + 126x^4y^5 - 36x^2y^7 + y^9 \\
 g_{20} &= x^{10} - 45x^8y^2 + 210x^6y^4 - 210x^4y^6 + 45x^2y^8 - y^{10} \\
 g_{21} &= 10x^9y - 120x^7y^3 + 25x^5y^5 - 120x^3y^7 + 10xy^9 \\
 g_{22} &= x^{11} - 55x^9y^2 + 330x^7y^4 - 462x^5y^6 + 165x^3y^8 - 11xy^{10}
 \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{aligned}
g_{23} &= 11x^{10}y - 165x^8y^3 + 462x^6y^5 - 330x^4y^7 + 55x^2y^9 - y^{11} \\
g_{24} &= x^{12} - 66x^{10}y^2 + 495x^8y^4 - 924x^6y^6 + 495x^4y^8 - 66x^2y^{10} + y^{12} \\
g_{25} &= 12x^{11}y - 220x^9y^3 + 792x^7y^5 - 792x^5y^7 + 220x^3y^9 - 12xy^{11} \\
g_{26} &= x^{13} - 78x^{11}y^2 + 715x^9y^4 - 1716x^7y^6 + 1287x^5y^8 - 286x^3y^{10} + 13xy^{11} \\
g_{27} &= 13x^{12}y - 286x^{10}y^3 + 1287x^8y^5 - 1716x^6y^7 + 715x^4y^9 - 78x^2y^{11} + y^{13} \\
g_{28} &= x^{14} - 19x^{12}y^2 + 1001x^{10}y^4 - 3003x^8y^6 + 3003x^6y^8 - 100x^4y^{10} \\
&\quad + 19x^2y^{12} - y^{14} \\
g_{29} &= 14x^{13}y - 364x^{11}y^3 + 2002x^9y^5 - 3432x^7y^7 + 2002x^5y^9 - 364x^3y^{11} \\
&\quad + 14xy^{13} \\
g_{30} &= x^{15} - 105x^{13}y^2 + 1365x^{11}y^4 - 5005x^9y^6 + 6435x^7y^8 - 3003x^5y^{10} \\
&\quad + 455x^3y^{12} - 15xy^{14} \\
g_{31} &= 15x^{14}y - 455x^{12}y^3 + 3003x^{10}y^5 - 6435x^8y^7 + 5005x^6y^9 - 1365x^4y^{11} \\
&\quad + 105x^2y^{13} - y^{15} \\
g_{32} &= x^{16} - 120x^{14}y^2 + 1820x^{12}y^4 - 8008x^{10}y^6 + 12870x^8y^8 - 8008x^6y^{10} \\
&\quad + 1820x^4y^{12} - 120x^2y^{14} + y^{16} \\
g_{33} &= 16x^{15}y - 560x^{13}y^3 + 4368x^{11}y^5 - 11440x^9y^7 + 11440x^7y^9 - 4368x^5y^{11} \\
&\quad + 560x^3y^{13} - 16xy^{15} \\
g_{34} &= x^{17} - 136x^{15}y^2 + 2380x^{13}y^4 - 12376x^{11}y^6 + 24310x^9y^8 - 19448x^7y^{10} \\
&\quad + 6188x^5y^{12} - 680x^3y^{14} + 17xy^{16} \\
g_{35} &= 17x^{16}y - 680x^{14}y^3 + 6188x^{12}y^5 - 19448x^{10}y^7 + 24310x^8y^9 - 12376x^6y^{11} \\
&\quad + 2380x^4y^{13} - 136x^2y^{15} + y^{17} \\
g_{36} &= x^{18} - 153x^{16}y^2 + 3060x^{14}y^4 - 18564x^{12}y^6 + 43758x^{10}y^8 - 43758x^8y^{10} \\
&\quad + 18564x^6y^{12} - 3060x^4y^{14} + 153x^2y^{16} - y^{18} \\
g_{37} &= 18x^{17}y - 816x^{15}y^3 + 8568x^{13}y^5 - 31824x^{11}y^7 + 48620x^9y^9 - 31824x^7y^{11} \\
&\quad + 8568x^5y^{13} - 816x^3y^{15} + 18xy^{17}
\end{aligned}$$



$$g_{38} = x^{19} - 171x^{17}y^2 + 3876x^{15}y^4 - 27132x^{13}y^6 + 75682x^{11}y^8 - 92378x^9y^{10} \\ + 40388x^7y^{12} - 11628x^5y^{14} + 969x^3y^{16} - 19xy^{18}$$

$$g_{39} = 19x^{18}y - 969x^{16}y^3 + 11628x^{14}y^5 - 40388x^{12}y^7 + 92378x^{10}y^9 \\ - 75682x^8y^{11} + 27132x^6y^{13} - 3876x^4y^{15} + 171x^2y^{17} - y^{19}$$

$$g_{40} = x^{20} - 190x^{18}y^2 + 4845x^{16}y^4 - 38760x^{14}y^6 + 116070x^{12}y^8 - 184756x^{10}y^{10} \\ + 116070x^8y^{12} - 38760x^6y^{14} + 4845x^4y^{16} - 190x^2y^{18} + y^{20}$$

$$g_{41} = 20x^{19}y - 1140x^{17}y^3 + 15504x^{15}y^5 - 67520x^{13}y^7 + 168060x^{11}y^9 \\ - 168060x^9y^{11} + 67520x^7y^{13} - 15504x^5y^{15} + 1140x^3y^{17} - 20xy^{19}$$

$$g_{42} = x^{21} - 210x^{19}y^2 + 5985x^{17}y^4 - 54264x^{15}y^6 + 183590x^{13}y^8 - 352816x^{11}y^{10} \\ + 284130x^9y^{12} - 106280x^7y^{14} + 20349x^5y^{16} - 1330x^3y^{18} + 21xy^{20}$$

$$g_{43} = 21x^{20}y - 1330x^{18}y^3 + 20349x^{16}y^5 - 106280x^{14}y^7 + 284130x^{12}y^9 \\ - 352816x^{10}y^{11} + 18350x^8y^{13} - 54264x^6y^{15} + 5985x^4y^{17} - 210x^2y^{19} \\ + y^{21}$$

$$g_{44} = x^{22} - 231x^{20}y^2 + 7315x^{18}y^4 - 74613x^{16}y^6 + 289870x^{14}y^8 - 636946x^{12}y^{10} \\ + 636946x^{10}y^{12} - 289870x^8y^{14} + 74613x^6y^{16} - 7315x^4y^{18} + 231x^2y^{20} \\ - y^{22}$$

$$g_{45} = 22x^{21}y - 1540x^{19}y^3 + 26334x^{17}y^5 - 160544x^{15}y^7 + 467720x^{13}y^9 \\ - 705632x^{11}y^{11} + 467720x^9y^{13} - 160544x^7y^{15} + 26334x^5y^{17} - 1540x^3y^{19} \\ + 22xy^{21}$$

$$g_{46} = x^{23} - 253x^{21}y^2 + 8855x^{19}y^4 - 100947x^{17}y^6 + 450414x^{15}y^8 - 1104666x^{13}y^{10} \\ - 1342578x^{11}y^{12} + 757590x^9y^{14} - 235157x^7y^{16} + 33649x^5y^{18} - 1771x^3y^{20} \\ + 23xy^{22}$$

$$g_{47} = 23x^{22}y - 1771x^{20}y^3 + 33649x^{18}y^5 - 235157x^{16}y^7 + 757590x^{14}y^9 \\ - 1342578x^{12}y^{11} + 1104666x^{10}y^{13} - 450414x^8y^{15} + 100947x^6y^{17} \\ - 8855x^4y^{19} + 253x^2y^{21} - y^{23}$$





$$\begin{aligned}
 g_{48} = & x^{24} - 276x^{22}y^2 + 10626x^{20}y^4 - 134596x^{18}y^6 + 685571x^{16}y^8 \\
 & - 1862256x^{14}y^{10} + 2685156x^{12}y^{12} - 1862256x^{10}y^{14} + 685571x^8y^{16} \\
 & - 134596x^6y^{18} + 10626x^4y^{20} - 276x^2y^{22} + y^{24}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 g_{49} = & 24x^{23}y - 2024x^{21}y^3 + 42504x^{19}y^5 - 336104x^{17}y^7 + 1208004x^{15}y^9 \\
 & - 2447244x^{13}y^{11} + 2447244x^{11}y^{13} - 1208004x^9y^{15} + 336104x^7y^{17} \\
 & - 42504x^5y^{19} + 2024x^3y^{21} - 24xy^{23}.
 \end{aligned}$$





## THE G FUNCTIONS

$$\begin{aligned}
G_1 &= x^2 + y^2 \\
G_2 &= x^3 + xy^2 \\
G_3 &= x^2y + y^3 \\
G_4 &= x^4 - y^4 \\
G_5 &= x^3y + xy^3 \\
G_6 &= x^5 - 2x^3y^2 - 3xy^4 \\
G_7 &= 3x^4y + 2x^2y^3 - y^5 \\
G_8 &= (x^6 + y^6) - 5(x^4y^2 + y^4x^2) \\
G_9 &= x^5y - xy^5 \\
G_{10} &= x^7 - 9x^5y^2 - 5x^3y^4 + 5xy^6 \\
G_{11} &= y^7 - 9x^2y^5 - 5x^4y^3 + 5x^6y \\
G_{12} &= (x^8 - y^8) + 14(x^2y^6 - x^6y^2) \\
G_{13} &= 3(x^7y + xy^7) - 7(x^5y^3 + x^3y^5) \\
G_{14} &= x^9 - 20x^7y^2 + 14x^5y^4 + 28x^3y^6 - 7xy^8 \\
G_{15} &= 7x^8y - 28x^6y^3 - 14x^4y^5 + 20x^2y^7 - y^9 \\
G_{16} &= x^{10} + y^{10} + 42(x^6y^4 + x^4y^6) - 27x^8y^2 + x^2y^8) \\
G_{17} &= 2(x^9y - xy^9) + 12(x^3y^7 - x^7y^3) \\
G_{18} &= x^{11} - 35x^9y^2 + 90x^7y^4 + 42x^5y^6 - 75x^3y^8 + 9xy^{10} \\
G_{19} &= 9x^{10}y - 75x^8y^3 + 42x^6y^5 + 90x^4y^7 - 35x^2y^9 + y^{11} \\
G_{20} &= x^{12} - 44x^{10}y^2 + 165x^8y^4 - 165x^4y^8 + 44x^2y^{10} - y^{12} \\
G_{23} &= 11x^{12}y - 154x^{10}y^3 + 297x^8y^5 + 132x^6y^7 - 275x^4y^9 + 54x^2y^{11} - y^{13} \\
G_{24} &= x^{14} - 65x^{12}y^2 + 429x^{10}y^4 - 429x^8y^6 - 429x^6y^8 + 429x^4y^{10} \\
&\quad - 65x^2y^{12} + y^{14}
\end{aligned}$$



$$G_{27} = 13x^{14}y - 273x^{12}y^3 + 1001x^{10}y^5 - 429x^8y^7 - 1001x^6y^9 + 637x^4y^{11} - 77x^2y^{13} + y^{15}$$

$$G_{28} = x^{16} - 90x^{14}y^2 + 910x^{12}y^4 - 2002x^{10}y^6 + 2002x^6y^{10} - 910x^4y^{12} + 90x^2y^{14} - y^{16}$$

$$G_{31} = 15x^{16}y - 440x^{14}y^3 + 2548x^{12}y^5 - 3432x^{10}y^7 - 1430x^8y^9 + 3640x^6y^{11} - 1260x^4y^{13} + 104x^2y^{15} - y^{17}$$

$$G_{32} = x^{18} - 119x^{16}y^2 + 1700x^{14}y^4 - 6188x^{12}y^6 + 4862x^{10}y^8 + 4862x^8y^{10} - 6188x^6y^{12} + 1700x^4y^{14} - 119x^2y^{16} + y^{18}$$

$$G_{35} = 17x^{18}y - 663x^{16}y^3 + 5508x^{14}y^5 - 13260x^{12}y^7 + 4862x^{10}y^9 + 11934x^8y^{11} - 9996x^6y^{13} + 2244x^4y^{15} - 135x^2y^{17} + y^{19}$$

$$G_{36} = x^{20} - 152x^{18}y^2 + 2907x^{16}y^4 - 15504x^{14}y^6 + 25194x^{12}y^8 - 25194x^8y^{12} + 15504x^6y^{14} - 2907x^4y^{16} + 152x^2y^{18} - y^{20}.$$



## APPENDIX 2

$$w_h = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{mn} x^m y^n \quad (A1)$$

$$\nabla^4 w_h = 0$$

$$\left( \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^4} + 2 \frac{\partial^4}{\partial x^2 \partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^4}{\partial y^4} \right) \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{mn} x^m y^n = 0$$

implying

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{m=4}^{\infty} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{mn} (m)(m-1)(m-2)(m-3) x^{m-4} y^n \\ & + 2 \sum_{m=2}^{\infty} \sum_{n=2}^{\infty} a_{mn} (m)(m-1)(n)(n-1) x^{m-2} y^{n-2} \\ & + \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{n=4}^{\infty} a_{mn} (n)(n-1)(n-2)(n-3) x^m y^{n-4} = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (A2)$$

The equation (A2) can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \sum_{\ell=0}^{\infty} [a_{k+4,\ell} (k+4)(k+3)(k+2)(k+1) + 2a_{k+2,\ell+2} (k+2)(k+1) \\ & (\ell+2)(\ell+1) + a_{k,\ell+4} (\ell+4)(\ell+3)(\ell+2)(\ell+1)] x^k y^\ell = 0 \end{aligned} \quad (A3)$$

implying

$$[a_{k+4,\ell} (k+4)(k+3)(k+2)(k+1) + 2a_{k+2,\ell+2} (k+2)(k+1) (\ell+2)(\ell+1) + a_{k,\ell+4} (\ell+4)(\ell+3)(\ell+2)(\ell+1)] = 0 \quad (A4)$$

where  $k = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \infty$

$\ell = 0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, \infty$



Selecting a finite number of terms, then equation (A1) can be written as:

$$w_h = \sum_{m=0}^p \sum_{n=0}^p a_{mn} x^m y^n \quad (A5)$$

where  $m + n \leq p$  and  $p \geq 4$ .

Then in equation (A4),  $k$  and  $\ell$  are

$$\begin{aligned} k &= 0, 1, 2, \dots (p-4) \\ \ell &= 0, 1, 2, \dots (p-4) \end{aligned} \quad \text{but } k + \ell \leq (p-4)$$

The number of equations (A4) is  $[(p-3)(p-2)/2]$

For instance,  $p = 5$ ,  $w_h$  can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} w_h &= a_{0,0} + a_{1,0}x + a_{0,1}y + a_{2,0}x^2 + a_{1,1}xy + a_{0,2}y^2 \\ &+ a_{3,0}x^3 + a_{2,1}x^2y + a_{1,2}xy^2 + a_{0,3}y^3 + a_{4,0}x^4 + a_{3,1}x^3y \\ &+ a_{2,2}x^2y^2 + a_{1,3}xy^3 + a_{0,4}y^4 + a_{5,0}x^5 + a_{4,1}x^4y \\ &+ a_{3,2}x^3y^2 + a_{2,3}x^2y^3 + a_{4,1}xy^4 + a_{0,5}y^5 \end{aligned} \quad (A6)$$

Since  $k + \ell \leq 5 - 4 = 1$ , then there are three constraint equations (A4) which can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} 3a_{4,0} + a_{2,2} + a_{0,4} &= 0 \\ 5a_{5,0} + a_{3,2} + a_{1,4} &= 0 \\ a_{4,1} + a_{2,3} + 5a_{0,5} &= 0 \end{aligned} \quad (A7)$$





Omitting all the details, equation (A6) after using the constraint equations (A7) can be written as:

$$w_h = \sum_{j=1}^7 b_j G_j + \sum_{i=1}^{11} c_i g_i$$

where the coefficients  $b_j$ 's and  $c_i$ 's are linear combination of  $a_{mn}$ 's and all the coefficients  $b_j$ 's and  $c_i$ 's are linearly independent.





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